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An Economic Research Service Report

Structural and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms, 1992

17th Annual Family Farm Report to Congress

Judith Z. Kalbacher
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Structural and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms, 1992: 17th Annual Family Farm Report to Congress. By Judith Z. Kalbacher and Victor J. Oliveira. Rural Economy Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Agriculture Information Bulletin Number 721.

Abstract

In 1992, the United States had about 2.1 million farms, 73 percent of which were classified as "small farms," with annual gross farm sales of less than \$50,000. However, the 557,613 "commercial farms" (with \$50,000 or more annual gross farm sales) accounted for 88 percent of total gross farm sales and 68 percent of the acres in farms. This information is included in the 17th Annual Family Farm Report to Congress, which provides annual data on the major structural and financial characteristics of U.S. farms as portrayed by USDA's Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS).

Keywords: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, farm structure, farm financial situation, farm operator household income.

Preface

This report is the 17th annual report to the Congress on the status of family farms. These reports have been submitted to Congress in accordance with the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 as amended.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Summary . . . . .	.iii
Introduction . . . . .	.1
About the Data . . . . .	.1
National and Regional Highlights . . . . .	.2
Number of Farms . . . . .	.2
Land in Farms . . . . .	.2
Gross Farm Sales . . . . .	.2
Characteristics of Farm Operations . . . . .	.3
Farm Organization . . . . .	.4
Tenure . . . . .	.4
Type of Farm . . . . .	.4
Acreage Class . . . . .	.4
Sales Class . . . . .	.4
Farmland Ownership and Use . . . . .	.4
Acres Operated . . . . .	.5
Cropland Removed From Production . . . . .	.6
Financial and Economic Well-Being . . . . .	.7
Farm Business Income Statement . . . . .	.7
Farm Balance Sheet . . . . .	.7
New Capital Investments . . . . .	.8
Farm Financial Performance . . . . .	.8
Characteristics of Farm Operators . . . . .	.8
Principal Occupation . . . . .	.9
Education . . . . .	.9
Age . . . . .	.9
Farm Operator Households' Dependence on Farming . . . . .	.10
FCRS Household Data . . . . .	.10
Household Income . . . . .	.12
Dependence on Farming . . . . .	.13
References . . . . .	.15
Related Reports . . . . .	.15
Appendix Tables . . . . .	.16
Appendix A—Definitions of Terms . . . . .	.63
Appendix B—The Farm Costs and Returns Survey . . . . .	.66

Summary

In 1992, the United States had about 2.1 million farms, 73 percent of which were classified as "small farms," with annual gross farm sales of less than \$50,000. However, the 557,613 "commercial farms" (with \$50,000 or more annual gross farm sales) accounted for 88 percent of total gross farm sales and 68 percent of the acres in farms. This information is included in the 17th Annual Family Farm Report to Congress, which provides annual data on the major structural and financial characteristics of U.S. farms as portrayed by USDA's Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS).

The 2.1 million farms in the 48 contiguous States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) farmed 919 million acres of land in 1992. The average amount of land per farm was 440 acres. Total gross farm sales (a measure of what farms produce during a year) was about \$140 billion, or \$67,010 per farm. Gross cash farm income, a measure of cash actually received by farms during the year, totaled \$128 billion. Livestock sales accounted for 44 percent of total gross cash income and crop sales 43 percent. Other farm-related income totaled 8 percent and government payments 5 percent of gross cash income.

This report covers five basic categories of information: characteristics of farm operations, farmland ownership and use, financial and economic well-being, characteristics of farm operators, and farm operator households' dependence on farming.

Farm Operations. Individual operations in 1992 accounted for 91 percent of farms, 76 percent of total acres operated, and 67 percent of gross farm sales. However, in terms of acres operated and farm sales, individual operations were smaller than farms operated as partnerships or corporations.

The most common types of farms were beef, hog, or sheep farms (44 percent of all farms) and cash grain farms (19 percent). These two types also accounted for the most total acres operated and farm sales.

Most U.S. farms are small in size, with 58 percent having fewer than 180 acres and 28 percent having fewer than 50 acres. Most farms are also small in terms of gross farm sales, with 48 percent of all farms having sales of less than \$10,000.

Farmland Ownership and Use. About 50 million acres of cropland, or 5 percent of total acres operated on farms, were removed from production in 1992. The 10-year Conservation Reserve Program accounted for 58 percent of the cropland idled.

Financial and Economic Well-Being. Farm businesses received an estimated \$128 billion in gross cash farm income in 1992, or an average \$65,366 per reporting farm. Gross cash farm income includes only the share received by the farm business. In addition, gross cash farm income includes farm-related income and can include cash from the sale of products produced in earlier years.

Cash expenses totaled \$103 billion in 1992, for an average \$49,270 per reporting farm. Net cash farm income (gross cash income minus cash expenses) was \$25 billion in 1992 and averaged \$12,070 per reporting farm.

Classification of farm businesses by their combined net income and solvency status revealed that 65 percent of farm businesses in 1992 were in a favorable financial position.

Farm Operators. Operators of commercial farms were significantly more likely to work primarily in farming occupations than were operators of small farms; 91 percent of commercial farm operators reported farming as their principal occu-

pation in 1992, while 59 percent of small farm operators had principal occupations other than farming.

Dependence on Farming. The average household income for all farm operator households was \$42,911 in 1992. Farm operator household income includes the operator households share of net cash farm income that accrues to the farm operation, less depreciation, as well as wages paid to household members for work done on the farm and net income from another farm business, plus all sources of off-farm income accruing to the household. Only 17 percent of this income was attributed to farm income; however, the 1992 data show variations in the degree to which farm operator households depended on farm income.

Households operating commercial farms generally had higher average income than households operating small farms (\$55,101 per commercial farm compared with \$38,527 per small farm). For households operating commercial farms, farm income accounted for over half of the average total household income. Households operating small farms were solely dependent on income from off-farm sources.

Structural and Financial Characteristics of U.S. Farms, 1992

17th Annual Family Farm Report to Congress

Judith Z. Kalbacher and Victor J. Oliveira

Introduction

This report, the 17th Annual Family Farm Report to Congress, provides information on the major structural and financial characteristics of farms in 1992. The series of family farm reports originated with the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, which required the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prepare a report to Congress that provided information on the trends in family and nonfamily farm operations and the effects of government programs and Federal laws on the family farm system. Since that time, Congress has continued to require family farm reports on an annual basis, although the scope and content of the reports have changed. This report, the latest in the series of congressionally mandated family farm reports, provides farm structural information that is not available from any other single publication.

The variables presented in this report were selected to provide a comprehensive overview of the major structural and financial characteristics of the Nation's farm operations. The variables fall into five basic categories:

Characteristics of farm operations—provides information on the forms of farm organization, tenure arrangements under which land is operated, types of farms, and sales and acreage classes of farms.

Farmland ownership and use—measures the total amount of land operated and the arrangements under which land is held and operated.

Financial and economic well-being—measures the income and wealth status of farms.

Characteristics of farm operators—provides information about the people who operate farms.

Farm operator households' dependence on farming—provides a sense of the importance of farming to operator households.

These variables, taken together, show how the Nation's farms are organized to use and control resources and the financial and economic results of farming activities.

The major structural and financial characteristics of the farms in 1992 are discussed in the text and presented

in summary tables and figures. Additional detailed data, including the types of information frequently requested by policymakers and the public, are presented in the appendix tables. Users should note that in some cases individual estimates reported in the tables do not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

About the Data

The information provided in this report is based directly on data collected in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 1992 Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS). The FCRS has been used to prepare the annual family farm report to Congress since the 15th report which was based on data from the 1990 FCRS. The FCRS is conducted annually by USDA's Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service in all States except Alaska and Hawaii. The FCRS is the only national-level data source on farm structure that is available on an annual basis. Technical information about the data source is provided in appendix B.

The data for 1992 were collected during February and March of 1993 from a representative sample of farm and ranch operations in the contiguous United States. In 1992, the usable sample size was about 11,000 operations. Financial measures presented in the Financial and Economic Well-Being section of this report and related tables and figures are based on the information provided by these operations about their farm (or ranch) businesses. These measures, which relate strictly to the farm business, differ conceptually from official USDA sector estimates which include not only the farm business but all participants in the sector.¹ Official sector estimates also represent a com-

¹For example, the income of farm businesses includes the income of those with ownership interest in the operation—farm operators, partners, and shareholders. In addition to these participants, USDA's sector estimates include others such as contractors and landlords who share the risks of production. For more information about farm income accounts, see "Getting from Sector Income to Household Income" in USDA's *Agricultural Income and Finance: Situation and Outlook Report*, AFO-50, Sept. 1993.

bination of data sources and cover all 50 States. More information about the survey's comparability can be found in appendix B.

The value of gross farm sales, a financially based variable used throughout this report primarily as an indication of farm size, is a measure of what the farm has produced during the year. Gross farm sales is not an income measure and differs conceptually from gross cash farm income received by the farm business (presented in the Financial and Economic Well-Being section). Unlike gross cash farm income, gross farm sales includes the shares of sales and government payments received by both the operation and the landlord(s). It also includes most of the contractors' share of the value of production. In contrast, gross cash farm income is a measure of cash actually received by the farm business during the year and includes only the share received by the operation. More information and detailed definitions of terms used in this report are presented in appendix A. In addition, gross value of sales does not include all participants in the sector and, thus, does not measure the total value of agricultural output to the sector.

Most of the data provided in this report are directly comparable with data presented in the previous family farm report (Kalbacher, Oliveira, and Bentley, 1994). However, the measurement of some of the data items changed slightly between this report and the previous one.² Readers analyzing changes between 1991 and 1992 should read the section on definition of terms in both reports to see if the item has changed.

Variations in sample design and survey procedures influence the conclusions reached about the structure and financial characteristics of farms based on the survey data. To provide a perspective on the reliability of the data, relative standard errors (RSE's), or indicators of their magnitude, are included for all survey items in the tables. Because the reliability of estimates is questionable when the RSE exceeds 25 percent, data users should exercise caution when interpreting items with RSE's of this magnitude or higher. See appendix B for a detailed explanation of this statistic. Statements of comparisons in the text are statistically significant with a 95-percent or higher confidence level.

National and Regional Highlights

The fundamental measures of farm structure are the number and size distribution of farms. Farms in the

²The two primary changes involved moving purchases of livestock for breeding from cash expenses to capital expenditures and using new data from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis to recalculate the imputed rental value for farm operator dwellings.

FCRS are defined as "all establishments that sold or would normally have sold at least \$1,000 of agricultural products during the year." This definition is consistent with the definition of farms generally used in Federal Government statistics. Under this inclusive definition, a variety of operations, ranging from small, part-time farms to large commercial operations, are included in the count of farms.³ Two measures of farm size were used in this report: acres operated, a resource-based measure, and gross farm sales, an output-based measure.

Number of Farms

Estimates from the 1992 FCRS indicate that there were 2,090,700 farms in the contiguous United States (table 1). This estimate is not significantly different from the 1991 estimate of 2,099,900 farms reported in the previous family farm report (Kalbacher, Oliveira, and Bentley, 1994).

To determine regional patterns, we examined the data by the major U.S. farming regions (fig. 1). These regions are commonly used by the Economic Research Service and the National Agricultural Statistics Service in their ongoing work on the farm sector. The regional estimates indicate that the Corn Belt had the largest number of farms, representing 21 percent of all farms in 1992.

Land in Farms

Total acres of farmland operated is defined as agricultural land owned, plus land rented from others, less land rented to others, plus land both used and rented to others. U.S. farmers operated a total of 919 million acres of land in 1992, or an average 440 acres per farm (table 1). Three regions—Southern Plains, Mountain, and Northern Plains—accounted for 59 percent of total acres operated. The Northeast operated the fewest acres of farmland, accounting for only 3 percent of the U.S. total. The largest farms, as measured by mean acres operated, were in the Mountain (1,488 acres) region followed by the Northern Plains (899 acres) and the Southern Plains (778 acres) regions. In contrast, the Appalachian (150 acres) and Northeast (165 acres) regions had the smallest farms.

Gross Farm Sales

The value of gross farm sales from operations in the FCRS was estimated to provide a measure of farm size based on level of agricultural output. The total value of gross farm sales estimated from the 1992 survey was

³ However, we have reported much of the data in this report by size of farm so that individual researchers wanting to exclude farms of a specific size (for example farms with gross farm sales of less than \$10,000 or fewer than 50 acres) can do so.

Table 1—Farms, acres operated, and gross farm sales, by region, 1992

Region	Farms		Acres operated		Mean acres operated		Gross farm sales ¹		Mean gross farm sales ¹	
	Number	RSE ²	1,000 acres	RSE ²	Acres	RSE ²	1,000,000 dollars	RSE ²	Dollars	RSE ²
All regions	2,090,700	2.2	919,108	3.6	440	3.9	140,098	2.7	67,010	3.1
Northeast	145,200	5.1	23,988	5.4	165	5.5	8,473	6.3	58,353	7.2
Lake States	221,000	4.9	58,058	4.6	263	4.6	15,210	5.8	68,824	6.8
Corn Belt	433,000	4.0	123,215	3.6	285	3.9	29,406	3.7	67,913	4.4
Northern Plains	191,000	5.2	171,773	5.7	899	7.0	17,400	9.0	91,098	10.1
Appalachian	303,000	5.4	45,577	4.9	150	4.9	9,426	8.1	31,110	8.4
Southeast	155,500	6.0	38,049	7.3	245	7.4	10,382	11.2	66,766	12.4
Delta States	114,000	9.0	32,635	6.3	286	8.3	7,990	9.6	70,083	9.3
Southern Plains	254,000	10.7	197,689	13.9	778	16.1	13,071	12.5	51,463	15.5
Mountain	117,500	7.4	174,792	7.9	1,488	9.9	9,680	7.8	82,387	10.5
Pacific	156,500	8.1	53,332	9.2	341	10.9	19,059	9.6	121,784	11.9

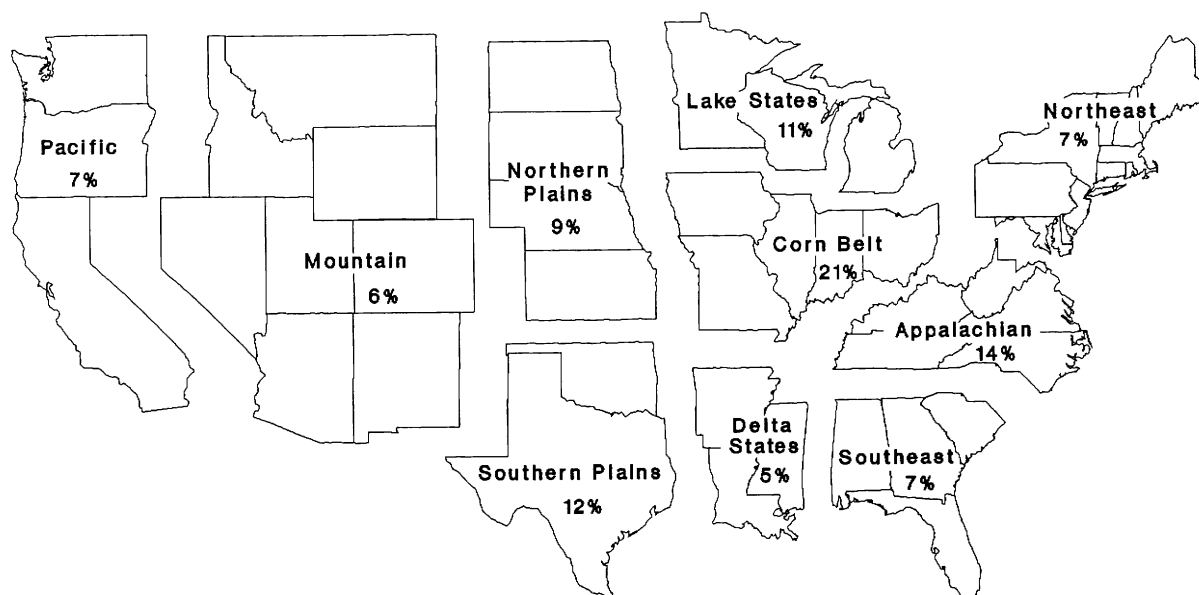
Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

¹ Includes the operation's and landlord's value of agricultural product sales and government payments.

² The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Figure 1

Distribution of farms by major farming regions of the contiguous United States, 1992



Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Note: Percentages do not add exactly to 100 percent due to rounding.

\$140 billion, or an average \$67,010 per farm (table 1). The Corn Belt led the Nation with \$29 billion worth of sales, accounting for 21 percent of the value of gross farm sales from operations. Because of sampling variability, regional patterns with regard to average sales cannot be stated with certainty.

Characteristics of Farm Operations

Generalizing about farms is difficult because of the wide diversity in the way farms are organized and operated across the United States. Classification of farms into categories based on selected characteristics, such

as form of organization, tenure arrangement, type of farm, acreage class, and gross farm sales class illustrates this diversity.

Farm Organization

Survey farms were identified as individual operations, partnerships, corporations, or cooperatives. Because of the small number of cooperative farms (less than 1 percent of all farms), they were dropped from the tabulations pertaining to farm organization. Individual operations were the most common type of organization, accounting for the vast majority of farms (91 percent), total acres operated (76 percent), and gross farm sales (67 percent) (table 2). However, they were the smallest farms in terms of mean acres operated (369) and mean farm sales (\$49,302). Partnerships accounted for 6 percent of all farms and had higher mean acres (921) and mean sales (\$154,272) than did individual farms. Corporate farms, which accounted for only 3 percent of all farms in 1992, had the highest mean acres (1,772) and mean farm sales (\$463,787).

Tenure

Tenure of farming operation reflects the ownership and control of the land farmed, based on survey questions about owned and rented farmland. Tenure was summarized by three groupings: full-owner operations own all the land they operate, part-owner operations own some and rent the remainder of their land from others, and tenant operations rent all of their land.⁴

The majority of farm operations (55 percent) reported full ownership of the land operated (table 2). Full-owner operations had the smallest mean acres (221), and lowest mean gross farm sales (\$32,855). Although part-owner operations accounted for only 36 percent of all operations, they accounted for 59 percent of total acres operated and 58 percent of total gross sales. Only 8 percent of operations reported that they rented all of their land.

Type of Farm

Farm type was determined by the farm production specialty classification that represented the largest portion of gross farm sales from the farm operation. The most common types of farms were beef, hog, or sheep farms (44 percent of all farms) followed by cash grain farms (19 percent) (table 2). These two farm types also accounted for the most total acres operated and farm sales. Mean acres operated was highest for cotton farms (1,021 acres), followed by cash grain farms (594

acres) and beef, hogs, or sheep farms (541 acres). In terms of gross farm sales, poultry farms (\$286,427) and cotton farms (\$238,806) had mean farm sales greater than those of other types of farms.

Acreage Class

In terms of acres operated, most U.S. farms are small; 58 percent had fewer than 180 acres including 28 percent with fewer than 50 acres (table 2). These smallest farms with fewer than 50 acres had mean gross farm sales of only \$17,366. Although the largest farms, those of 1,000 acres or more, were among the least common (only 8 percent of all farms), they accounted for 60 percent of total acres operated and 36 percent of gross farm sales and had the highest mean sales (\$284,042).

Sales Class

The FCRS data show that most farms are also small in terms of gross farm sales; almost half (48 percent) had sales of less than \$10,000 in 1992 (table 2). These small farms accounted for only 2 percent of total farm sales and 12 percent of total acreage. In contrast, farms with sales of \$500,000 or more were only 2 percent of all farms, but accounted for 35 percent of farm sales and 11 percent of acreage operated. These large farms operated an average 2,440 acres per farm and had average farm sales of \$1.2 million.

To facilitate comparisons among different types of farms, we summarized farms into two groups based on their annual gross farm sales: commercial farms (those with sales of \$50,000 or more) and small farms (those with sales less than \$50,000).⁵ Commercial farms are of special interest because although they are only a small portion of all farms, they produce most of the farm products and control the majority of farmland. For example, in 1992, only 557,613 farms or 27 percent of all U.S. farms were commercial farms, but they accounted for 68 percent of total acres operated and 88 percent of gross farm sales (fig. 2). In subsequent sections of this report, we selectively use these two groupings to highlight important differences between commercial and noncommercial farming operations.

Farmland Ownership and Use

The information presented in this section portrays a broad picture of the landownership and use patterns of farm operations in the 1992 FCRS. This information is

⁴ Operations that owned only a small proportion of the total land they operated (less than 1 percent) were also considered to be tenant operations in this analysis.

⁵ In the previous family farm report, annual gross farm sales of \$40,000 was the cutoff used to categorize small and commercial farms. The new level of \$50,000 is consistent with size classifications in the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

based on questions in the survey about the ownership and leasing of farmland acreage and amount of cropland taken out of production for various purposes. The landbase covered by these questions consists of total acres operated, including the farmstead, all cropland, woodland, pastureland, wasteland, and government program land.

Acres Operated

Ninety-three percent of all farms owned land in 1992, which accounted for 62 percent of total acres operated (table 3). Among reporting farms, an average 295 acres were owned. Forty-four percent of all farms rented an average of 423 acres of land from others. Twelve

Table 2—Farms, acres operated, and gross farm sales, by farm characteristics, 1992

Characteristic	Farms		Acres operated		Mean acres operated		Gross farm sales ¹		Mean gross farm sales ¹	
	Number	RSE ²	1,000 acres	RSE ²	Acres	RSE ²	1,000,000 dollars	RSE ²	Dollars	RSE ²
All farms	2,090,700	2.2	919,108	3.6	440	3.9	140,098	2.7	67,010	3.1
Organization: ³										
Individual	1,906,201	2.3	702,692	4.4	369	4.6	93,980	2.7	49,302	3.1
Partnership	127,635	6.4	117,496	9.5	921	9.6	19,690	6.2	154,272	7.3
Corporation	55,529	8.4	98,376	11.7	1,772	12.7	25,753	10.2	463,787	12.3
Tenure:										
Full owner	1,161,280	3.1	256,664	7.9	221	7.9	38,153	6.5	32,855	6.8
Part owner	756,970	2.5	545,109	4.7	720	4.8	81,595	3.2	107,791	3.6
Tenant	172,450	5.4	117,335	14.5	680	14.0	20,350	7.2	118,004	7.5
Acreage class:										
49 or fewer acres	580,130	4.1	12,452	4.6	21	2.3	10,075	10.0	17,366	9.9
50-179 acres	630,898	3.7	64,552	3.7	102	1.2	19,111	7.6	30,291	7.5
180-499 acres	505,054	3.8	152,864	3.4	303	1.2	33,267	5.3	65,867	5.7
500-999 acres	197,608	4.1	137,351	4.0	695	0.9	27,367	4.9	138,493	4.3
1,000 or more acres	177,011	3.6	551,889	6.0	3,118	5.4	50,279	5.5	284,042	5.7
Sales class:										
\$9,999 or less	1,003,400	3.6	111,294	11.4	111	11.1	3,169	6.5	3,158	5.6
\$10,000-\$49,999	529,687	3.3	186,030	5.0	351	4.4	12,974	3.4	24,495	1.9
\$50,000-\$99,999	231,613	4.1	169,225	11.6	731	11.1	18,072	5.2	78,028	3.3
\$100,000-\$249,999	217,500	3.5	244,036	10.2	1,122	9.6	34,730	3.6	159,680	1.4
\$250,000-\$499,999	67,500	5.3	108,470	9.9	1,607	9.2	21,521	5.2	318,823	1.5
\$500,000 or more	41,000	5.5	100,054	10.2	2,440	10.3	49,631	6.8	1,210,516	6.2
Farm type:										
Cash grains	390,607	3.2	232,209	3.0	594	3.0	33,166	2.9	84,908	3.1
Tobacco	90,515	9.2	13,586	10.5	150	9.2	3,260	10.5	36,017	10.9
Cotton	23,040	10.4	23,531	13.2	1,021	11.5	5,502	13.9	238,806	13.5
Other field crops	220,656	6.2	54,687	8.2	248	7.8	7,391	6.7	33,496	9.0
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	97,371	7.7	13,620	8.8	140	9.8	12,476	12.5	128,124	13.8
Nursery or greenhouse	58,333	10.7	3,628	27.2	62	26.5	4,630	17.9	79,369	18.0
Beef, hogs, or sheep	921,702	3.9	498,830	6.6	541	7.0	40,601	6.7	44,051	7.4
Poultry	30,736	14.7	4,391	22.9	143	23.0	8,804	13.3	286,427	14.5
Dairy	140,201	5.2	47,613	5.7	340	4.4	21,423	4.6	152,805	4.4
Other livestock	117,538	8.1	27,013	17.9	230	17.6	2,845	19.5	24,204	20.2

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.
¹Includes the operation's and landlord's value of agricultural product sales and government payments. ² The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ³This classification excludes cooperative farms. Therefore, categories do not sum to the all farms total.

percent of all farms rented an average of 185 acres out to others. Acres used for crops or livestock during part of the year and rented to another operation for crop or livestock use during another part of the year accounted for a very small portion of total acres of farmland operated (less than 1 percent). Because of the small amount of acreage used and rented out, this category

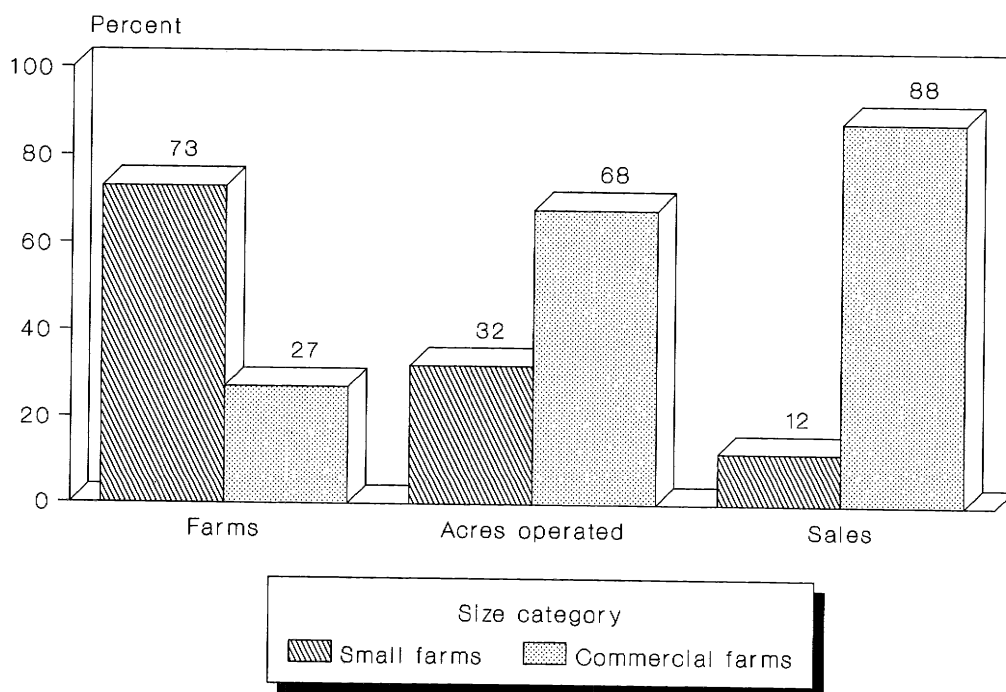
does not appear separately on the tables, but the acreage is included in total acres operated.

Cropland Removed From Production

Twenty-eight percent of all farms removed about 50 million acres of cropland, or 5 percent of total acres operated on farms, from production in 1992 in compli-

Figure 2

Farms, acres operated, and gross farm sales, by farm size category, 1992



Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Table 3—Farms and acres operated, by land ownership and use, 1992

Item	Farms reporting		Acres operated		Acres operated per reporting farm	
	Number	RSE ¹	1,000 acres	RSE ¹	Acres	RSE ¹
Acres operated ²	2,090,700	2.2	919,108	3.6	440	3.9
Owned	1,938,239	2.3	572,281	4.5	295	4.7
Rented in	929,407	2.2	392,780	5.1	423	5.2
Rented out	256,053	4.6	47,255	15.1	185	15.0
Cropland removed from production	589,626	2.7	49,841	5.1	85	4.8
Set-aside	450,393	2.6	18,834	4.8	42	4.6
Conservation Reserve Program	193,198	6.3	29,030	7.9	150	7.1
Other government programs	27,054	15.2	1,978	25.5	73	25.1

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

¹ The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ²Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

ance with government agricultural programs (table 3). The 10-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) accounted for 58 percent of the cropland idled, followed by the set-aside program (38 percent) and other government programs (4 percent). The Northern Plains accounted for 27 percent of all the cropland removed from production, more than any other region (app. table 9).

Financial and Economic Well-Being

This section presents measures of financial performance and economic well-being of farm operations derived from the 1992 FCRS, based on information provided by farm and ranch operations about their farm businesses. Estimates relate strictly to the farm business and do not include all participants in the sector.

Gross cash farm income (the total amount of cash received by the farm business from the sale of agricultural products, services rendered, and government farm payments) is the base measure from which several others are derived. Gross cash farm income gives an indication of total cash income to the farm business, through farming and related activities. This measure differs conceptually from gross value of farm sales, the output measure used throughout this report as an indication of farm size (more detail on the individual components of these measures is provided in appendix A).

Farm Business Income Statement

Farm businesses received an estimated \$128 billion in gross cash farm income in 1992, or an average \$65,366 per reporting farm (table 4). Livestock sales (44 percent) and crop sales (43 percent) accounted for most of total gross cash income. Other farm-related income (such as income from custom work and land rented to others) accounted for 8 percent. Farm businesses received a total of \$6 billion in government farm payments, which accounted for 5 percent of gross cash farm income. Over a third (36 percent) of farms reporting gross cash income received government payments, averaging \$8,911 per reporting farm.

Cash expenses totaled \$103 billion for farm businesses in 1992, for an average of \$49,270 per reporting farm. One measure of farm business profitability is net cash farm income. Net cash farm income (gross cash income minus cash expenses) was \$25 billion in 1992 and averaged \$12,070 per reporting farm. Adjusting net cash income by subtracting depreciation and non-cash labor expenses and adding the value of inventory change and nonmoney income yielded a total net farm income of \$28 billion, or \$13,524 per farm.

Farm Balance Sheet

Total farm assets in 1992 were \$801 billion while liabilities were \$88 billion, resulting in total equity (the difference between assets and liabilities) of \$713 billion

Table 4—Selected farm financial characteristics, 1992¹

Item	Farms reporting		Total dollars		Dollars per reporting farm	
	Number	RSE ²	1,000,000 dollars	RSE ²	Dollars	RSE ²
Gross cash income	1,957,673	2.2	127,966	2.3	65,366	2.9
Livestock sales	1,303,855	2.9	56,194	3.5	43,099	4.1
Crop sales	1,009,426	2.2	55,495	3.5	54,977	3.9
Government payments	704,424	2.4	6,277	2.5	8,911	2.6
Other farm-related income	862,665	2.2	10,000	4.6	11,592	4.5
Cash expenses	2,085,496	2.2	102,752	2.1	49,270	2.6
Net cash farm income	2,088,974	2.2	25,214	5.5	12,070	6.0
Net farm income	2,089,048	2.2	28,252	5.2	13,524	5.5
Farm assets	2,088,252	2.2	801,181	2.3	383,661	1.9
Liabilities	1,994,984	2.2	88,011	2.8	44,116	3.0
Equity	2,089,895	2.2	713,170	2.5	341,247	2.0
Capital investments	1,298,112	2.2	18,395	5.5	14,171	5.5

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

(table 4). The average value of assets per reporting farm was \$383,661, average liabilities \$44,116, and average equity was \$341,247. The debt/asset ratio (a measure of a farm's solvency) was 0.11, that is, farm operations had an equity in their farm businesses equal to 89 percent of total asset value.

New Capital Investments

About 62 percent of farm operations reported new capital investments, such as improvements to farm real estate and purchases of new machinery and equipment in 1992. These operations spent \$18.4 billion on capital investments, or an average \$14,171 per reporting farm (table 4). The total amount spent on these investments was 2.3 percent of the total assets reported in 1992. This ratio indicates the growth rate in total capital investments among farm businesses.

Farm Financial Performance

Although both net farm income and the debt/asset ratio are used to assess financial performance, they have limitations when considered independently. For example, if a farm business earns enough income to service debt and meet its other financial obligations, then a high debt/asset ratio may be acceptable. Similarly, a farm carrying a low debt load may be able to weather periods of low or negative income. To reflect the range of financial situations, the Economic Research Service developed a measure of the overall financial position of farm businesses based on their combined net income and solvency status (Morehart, Johnson, and Banker, 1992). On the basis of this combined measure, farm operations were classified into the following four categories:

Favorable—positive income and debt/asset ratio 0.40 or lower.

Marginal income—negative income and debt/asset ratio 0.40 or lower.

Marginal solvency—positive income and debt/asset ratio above 0.40.

Vulnerable—negative income and debt/asset ratio above 0.40.

According to this classification, most U.S. farms (65 percent) were in a favorable financial position in 1992 (table 5). These farms had mean gross farm sales of \$66,478 and accounted for almost two-thirds (65 percent) of the total gross farm sales. Another 26 percent of all farms were in the marginal income category; these were generally smaller operations with mean gross farm sales of only \$40,311. The 4 percent of farms that were marginally solvent had the highest mean gross farm sales (\$233,844). Only 4 percent of all farms were in a vulnerable position, and they produced just 4 percent of total gross farm sales.

Farm financial performance differed by sales class. Although the majority of both small and commercial farm businesses had a favorable status, a slightly greater percentage of commercial farms (69 percent) were in the favorable category than were small farms (64 percent) (fig. 3). Small farms were more likely to be in the marginal income category and less likely to be marginally solvent. There was no difference between the share of small and commercial farms in the likelihood of being in a vulnerable position.

Characteristics of Farm Operators

The FCRS provides selected information on the people who operate farms. However, information is collected on only one operator per farm. For farms with more

Table 5—Farms and gross farm sales, by net farm income/solvency class, 1992

Net farm income/ solvency class ¹	Farms		Gross farm sales ²		Mean gross farm sales ²	
	Number	RSE ³	1,000,000 dollars	RSE ³	Dollars	RSE ³
All farms	2,090,700	2.2	140,098	2.7	67,010	3.1
Favorable	1,368,278	2.3	90,960	3.0	66,478	3.3
Marginal income	550,307	4.4	22,184	5.9	40,311	6.6
Marginal solvency	93,655	7.0	21,901	11.2	233,844	12.0
Vulnerable	78,460	9.0	5,054	10.5	64,411	10.8

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

¹See text for an explanation of net farm income/solvency classes. ²Includes the operation's and landlord's value of agricultural product sales and government payments. ³The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

than one operator, such as partnerships and corporations, data were collected only for the senior operator. This procedure tends to underestimate the actual number of people farming and biases the statistics toward the characteristics of the senior operator.

Principal Occupation

Principal occupation refers to the occupation at which operators spent 50 percent or more of their work time during the year. Only a little over half of all farm operators (54 percent) reported farm or ranch work as their principal occupation (table 6). However, they operated most of the farmland (78 percent) and accounted for most of the farm sales (82 percent). Hired farm managers ran only about 1 percent of the farms. Although operators reporting principal occupations other than farming accounted for a large proportion of all farms (46 percent), they ran the smallest farms in terms of both mean acres (178) and mean gross farm sales (\$14,324).

Operators of commercial farms were significantly more likely to work primarily in farming (includes farming and hired farm manager categories) than were operators of small farms. Ninety-one percent of commercial farm operators reported farming as their principal occupation, while most small farm operators (59 percent) had principal occupations other than farming (fig. 4).

Education

Data from the FCRS suggest that smaller farms are operated by individuals with lower levels of education. Operators with less than a high school education operated the least amount of total acreage and generated the least total sales in addition to having the lowest mean acreage and farm sales. High school graduates accounted for more of the operators (41 percent), total acres operated (37 percent), and total gross farm sales (39 percent) than any of the other education group (table 6). College graduates, 17 percent of the total, operated the fewest number of farms. However, college graduates operated farms with the highest mean sales and, along with operators with some college, had the largest farms in terms of mean acreage.

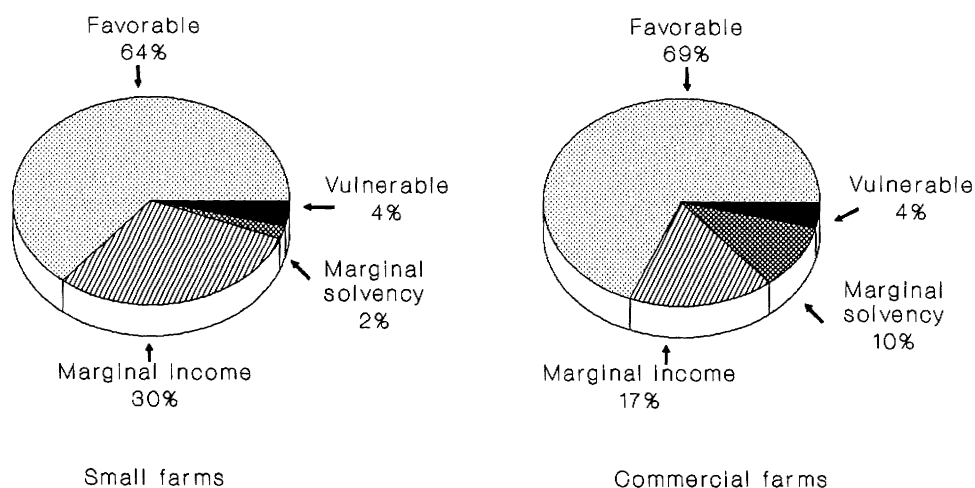
Small farms were more likely than commercial farms to be operated by individuals who had not completed high school (24 percent vs. 15 percent) while commercial farms were slightly more likely than small farms to be operated by high school graduates and persons with some college training (fig. 4). Similar proportions of commercial and small farms were operated by college graduates.

Age

Farm operators have a comparatively old age structure, with 71 percent 45 years or older and 47 percent age

Figure 3

Distribution of small and commercial farms, by farm financial category, 1992



Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Table 6—Farms, acres operated, and gross farm sales, by farm operator characteristics, 1992

Characteristic	Farms		Acres operated		Mean acres operated		Gross farm sales ¹		Mean gross farm sales ¹	
	Number	RSE ²	1,000 acres	RSE ²	Acres	RSE ²	1,000,000 dollars	RSE ²	Dollars	RSE ²
All farms	2,090,700	2.2	919,108	3.6	440	3.9	140,098	2.7	67,010	3.1
Occupation:										
Farming	1,122,794	2.0	720,799	4.1	642	4.2	114,910	2.4	102,343	2.7
Hired farm manager	14,769	17.8	28,690	21.4	1,943	24.1	11,534	21.0	780,952	26.7
Other occupation	953,137	4.0	169,620	11.3	178	11.1	13,653	6.4	14,324	6.2
Education:										
Less than high school	453,324	4.0	136,012	7.9	300	7.7	18,310	7.0	40,391	6.6
High school	861,404	2.7	343,057	6.0	398	6.0	55,157	4.1	64,031	4.3
Some college	428,013	4.1	250,050	10.0	584	10.1	31,829	4.8	74,364	5.4
College	347,960	5.4	189,988	8.3	546	8.8	34,802	7.6	100,017	8.8
Age:										
Less than 35 years	198,500	5.9	88,860	12.4	448	12.5	17,048	8.5	85,885	8.6
35-44 years	409,650	3.8	182,026	6.0	444	6.1	37,806	5.8	92,288	6.2
45-54 years	498,479	3.7	218,403	8.2	438	8.1	34,811	4.9	69,835	5.5
55-64 years	476,079	3.8	221,910	7.7	466	7.6	30,430	6.3	63,918	6.6
65 years or older	507,991	3.9	207,909	11.2	409	11.3	20,003	8.0	39,376	8.3

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

¹ Includes the operation's and landlord's value of agricultural product sales and government payments.

² The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

55 or older (table 6). In comparison, 45 percent of all self-employed workers in nonagricultural industries in 1992 were age 45 or older, and only 22 percent were age 55 or older (U.S. Dept. Labor, 1993).

Farm operators younger than 35 years of age accounted for fewer farms and less total acreage than operators in any of the other age groups (table 6). In terms of total gross farm sales, operators younger than 35 years of age and operators 65 years or older produced less than those in the middle age groups. Mean sales at \$39,376 were also comparatively low for operators 65 years or older, but no statistically significant differences were found among the other groups.

Operators of commercial farms are generally younger than small farm operators. Thirty-nine percent of commercial farm operators were less than 45 years of age compared with only 25 percent of small farm operators (fig. 4). Conversely, only 14 percent of commercial farm operators were age 65 or older compared with 28 percent of the operators of small farms.

Farm Operator Households' Dependence on Farming

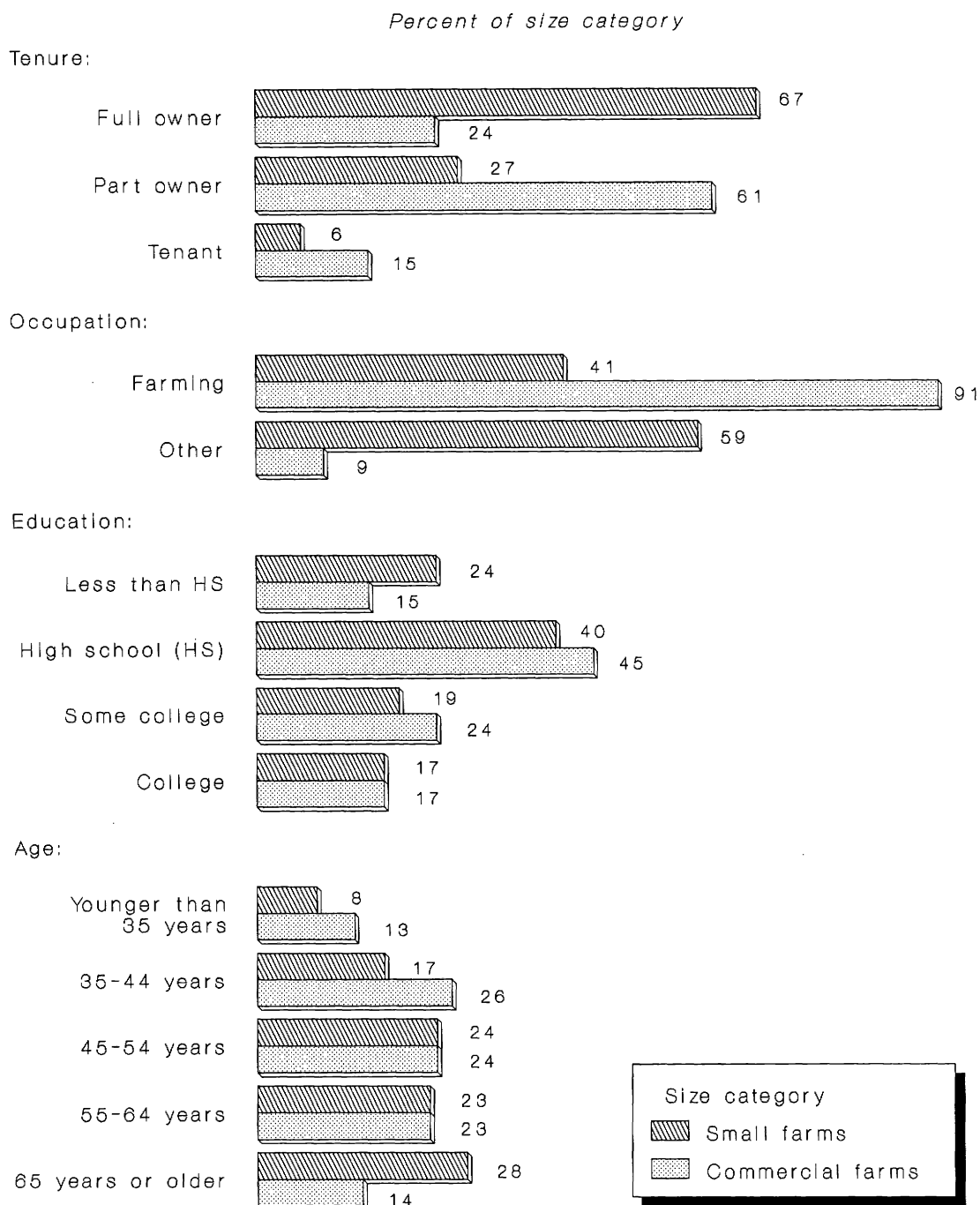
Most farm operator households receive some income from off-farm sources. This off-farm income is critical to the financial well-being of many farm households, offsetting some of the differences in farm income observed among operations. Thus, knowing something about the relative importance of farm and nonfarm income to the farm household provides important insights that can help us understand the structure of the U.S. farm operations today.

F CRS Household Data

A subset of the F CRS provides information about farm operator households, including their farm and off-farm income. Farms not closely held by the operator and members of the operator's household, such as farms operated as nonfamily corporations or cooperatives or where the operator, as a hired manager, does not receive any of the net income of the farm business, were excluded from this analysis. For farms with more than one operator, information was obtained only for

Figure 4

Distribution of small and commercial farms, by selected characteristics of farm operators, 1992



Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

the household of the senior operator. Because of this data collection procedure, households of others who may consider themselves operators were not included in the survey. Thus, the information presented in this section of the report represents households of senior operators of farms organized as individual operations, partnerships, and family corporations. These households numbered 2,071,948 or 99 percent of the number of farms in 1992 (table 7).

Household Income

Operator household income includes any farm-related income and any off-farm income received by the senior operator household. Farm-related income includes the net cash income from the farm business, less deprecia-

tion, as well as wages operators pay themselves and family members for work on the farm, income from renting farmland, and net income from another farm business. When two or more households share income from the farm, only one operator household's share is included. Off-farm income includes off-farm wages and salaries, the net income of any nonfarm business, interest and dividends, and any other cash off-farm income received by household members. A more detailed discussion of operator household income appears in appendix A.

The average household income of all farm operator households was \$42,911 in 1992 (table 7). Households operating commercial farms generally had higher income than households operating small farms

Table 7—Farm operator households and household income, by selected characteristics, 1992

Item	Households		Mean household income	
	Number	RSE ¹	Dollars	RSE ¹
All farm households	2,071,948	2.2	42,911	3.1
Region:				
Northeast	144,442	5.2	44,967	8.9
Lake States	219,296	5.0	37,397	7.8
Corn Belt	429,776	4.1	36,885	4.3
Northern Plains	189,783	5.3	34,594	5.3
Appalachian	302,267	5.4	36,042	4.2
Southeast	153,174	6.1	51,226	8.8
Delta States	113,379	9.1	36,166	7.8
Southern Plains	251,592	10.8	54,920	11.4
Mountain	114,632	7.6	35,118	5.6
Pacific	153,607	8.1	72,339	12.8
Farm size category:				
Small farms	1,523,857	2.9	38,527	4.2
Commercial farms	548,091	2.1	55,101	4.3
Farm organization:				
Individual	1,899,560	2.3	41,590	3.4
Partnership	126,513	6.4	52,683	8.7
Corporation	45,875	9.7	70,663	12.7
Farm operator household farm dependency category:				
Positive household income and—				
Loss from farming	955,648	3.5	40,304	5.3
0-24 percent from farming	406,045	4.6	50,695	5.2
25-49 percent from farming	167,480	5.4	50,117	6.7
50-74 percent from farming	131,998	5.6	49,320	6.7
75 percent and more from farming	277,896	3.5	65,859	5.9
Negative household income	132,881	5.4	-25,564	nc

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

nc = not computed. ¹ The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

(\$55,101 per commercial farm compared with \$38,527 per small farm). Differences in average household income by farm organization and region were not statistically significant.

Dependence on Farming

Of the average farm operator household income of \$42,911, only \$7,180 (17 percent) was attributed to farm income. However, the importance of farm and off-farm income varied by farm size (fig. 5). For households operating commercial farms, farm income made an important positive contribution to total household income, accounting for over half of the average commercial farm operator's total household income. On the other hand, households operating small farms on average experienced negative returns to farming and depended solely on income from off-farm sources.

To measure the relative importance of farm income to the operator household, farms were grouped into categories based on the ratio of farm income to total household income, as defined in appendix A. Five categories of farm operator households with positive household income and a sixth category with negative household income were created as follows:

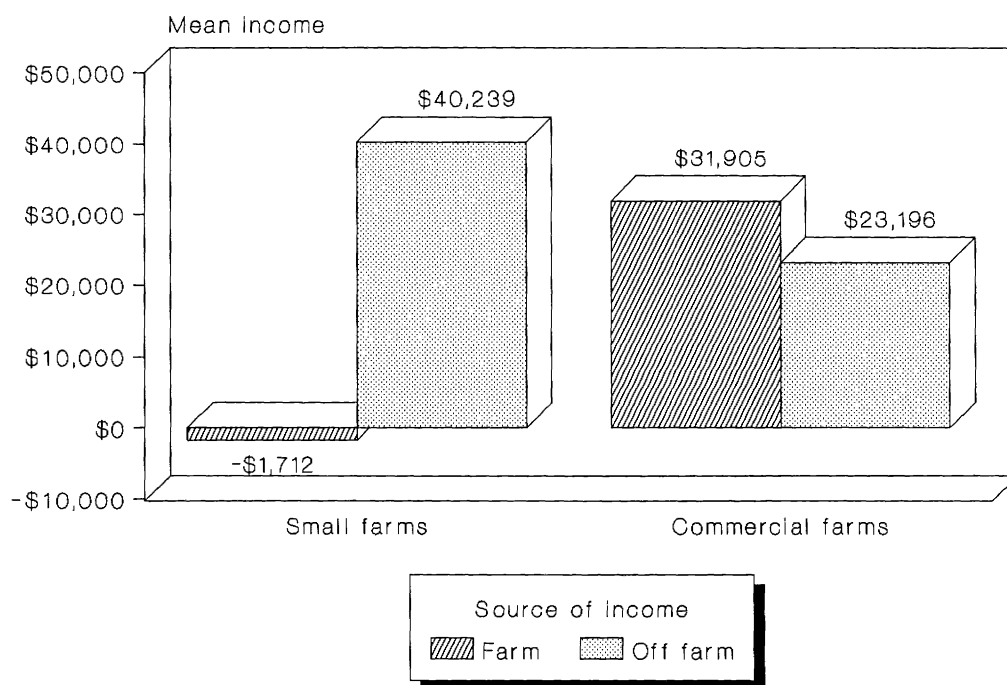
Positive household income and loss from farming,
0-24 percent from farming,
25-49 percent from farming,
50-74 percent from farming, and
75 percent and over from farming.
Negative household income.

Based on this classification, most farm operator households did not heavily depend on farm income. Those with positive household income and a loss from farming accounted for 46 percent of all operator households (table 7). Farming contributed from 0 to 24 percent to the total income of another 20 percent of operator households. Households most dependent on farm income, those with 75 percent or more of their income from farming, accounted for 13 percent of the households. These households had the highest mean household income at \$65,859 (differences among the other dependency categories are not statistically significant). Households with negative household income accounted for 6 percent of the households in 1992, and their mean household income was -\$25,564.

Farm dependency differed by size of farm. The majority (58 percent) of households associated with small

Figure 5

Mean income by source for farm operator households, by farm size category, 1992

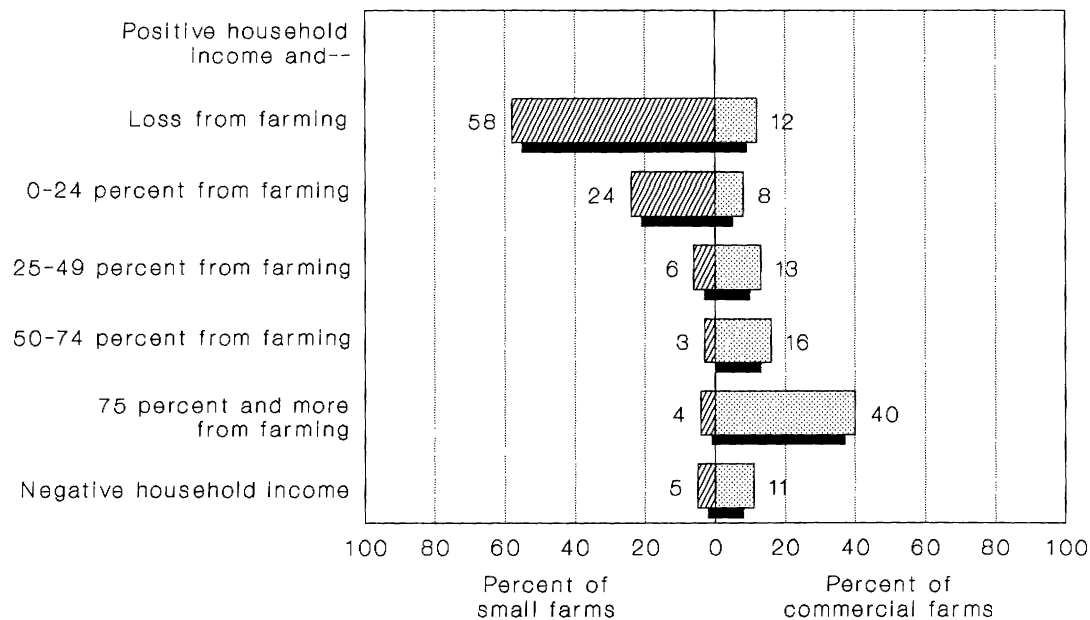


Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

farms experienced a loss from farming compared with only 12 percent of the households associated with commercial farms (fig. 6). On the other hand, households associated with commercial farms depended

heavily on farm income. In over half (56 percent) of the commercial farm households, farming contributed 50 percent or more of the household income compared with only 7 percent in small farm households.

Figure 6
Distribution of small and commercial farms, by farm operator household dependency category, 1992



Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Appendix Tables

The appendix tables provide more detailed information than is found in the text tables. Because of space limitations, RSE's are not published for all survey items in the tables. However, when RSE's not given in the tables exceed 25 percent, indications of their magnitude are provided. RSE's from 25 to 50 percent not given in the tables are noted with an asterisk preceding the estimate. Estimates with RSE's over 50 percent are not published without their accompanying RSE and are denoted with an "r."

Table:	Page
1—Mean acres operated, by organization, tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and region, 1992	17
2—Mean acres operated, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and region, 1992	20
3—Mean sales, by organization, tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and region, 1992	23
4—Mean sales, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and region, 1992	26
5—Mean acres operated, by tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and organization, 1992	29
6—Mean acres operated, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and organization, 1992	30
7—Mean sales, by tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and organization, 1992	31
8—Mean sales, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and organization, 1992	32
9—Selected characteristics of farms, by region, 1992	33
10—Selected characteristics of farms, by organization, 1992	37
11—Selected characteristics of farms, by tenure, 1992	39
12—Selected characteristics of farms, by acreage class, 1992	41
13—Selected characteristics of farms, by sales class, 1992	43
14—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm type, 1992	46
15—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator occupation, 1992	50
16—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator education, 1992	52
17—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator age, 1992	54
18—Farm size, by farm operator household dependency category and region, 1992	56
19—Farm size, by farm operator household dependency category and farm organization, 1992	59
20—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm operator household dependency category, 1992	60

Appendix table 1—Mean acres operated, by organization, tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and region, 1992

Item	All farms			Northeast			Lake States			Corn Belt		
	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All farms	2,090,700	440	3.9	145,200	165	5.5	221,000	263	4.6	433,000	285	3.9
Organization: ²												
Individual	1,906,201	369	4.6	128,897	141	4.5	200,357	241	4.6	400,103	256	4.1
Partnership	127,635	921	9.6	12,268	382	20.8	14,346	311	19.4	20,513	643	9.6
Corporation	55,529	1,772	12.7	4,034	284	23.7	*6,298	855	22.8	12,364	611	19.6
Tenure:												
Full owner	1,161,280	221	7.9	78,171	103	13.1	122,493	157	9.4	224,175	139	6.6
Part owner	756,970	720	4.8	56,820	245	5.5	88,543	400	4.9	166,048	461	4.4
Tenant	172,450	680	14.0	10,209	198	14.3	9,964	340	18.6	42,777	366	7.5
Acreage class:												
49 or fewer acres	580,130	21	2.3	45,453	21	6.4	45,346	26	8.5	87,319	20	7.4
50-179 acres	630,898	102	1.2	55,265	100	3.4	67,396	107	3.4	141,418	104	2.6
180-499 acres	505,054	303	1.2	37,270	290	2.7	77,684	290	2.7	130,683	307	2.2
500-999 acres	197,608	695	0.9	5,381	660	3.7	21,806	662	2.5	50,754	674	1.7
1,000 or more acres	177,011	3,118	5.4	1,831	1,722	13.7	8,769	1,453	6.6	22,826	1,425	3.2
Sales class:												
\$9,999 or less	1,003,400	111	11.1	71,700	77	7.4	87,200	98	8.5	166,500	79	7.3
\$10,000-\$49,999	529,687	351	4.4	32,303	181	16.9	54,736	206	9.1	125,762	217	6.4
\$50,000-\$99,999	231,613	731	11.1	15,897	217	11.5	29,764	286	9.4	58,238	388	6.2
\$100,000-\$249,999	217,500	1,122	9.6	17,700	277	6.1	36,000	466	6.2	56,800	593	4.7
\$250,000-\$499,999	67,500	1,607	9.2	4,730	502	12.2	10,000	911	12.2	18,350	941	7.2
\$500,000 or more	41,000	2,440	10.3	2,870	650	15.1	3,300	1,164	9.0	7,350	1,261	6.2
Net farm income/solvency class:												
Favorable	1,368,278	441	5.0	89,575	172	7.6	137,760	261	5.6	294,573	276	4.6
Marginal income	550,307	390	9.7	47,322	141	8.5	59,195	230	11.8	94,002	268	9.0
Marginal solvency	93,655	743	11.6	5,902	275	15.4	13,681	346	14.6	24,278	512	11.4
Vulnerable	78,460	406	13.6	d	d	na	10,364	362	24.8	20,148	214	17.3

See footnotes at end of table

Continued—

Appendix table 1—Mean acres operated, by organization, tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and region, 1992—Continued

Item	Northern Plains			Appalachian			Southeast			Delta States		
	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All farms	191,000	899	7.0	303,000	150	4.9	155,500	245	7.4	114,000	286	8.3
Organization: ²												
Individual	169,997	829	8.0	285,881	143	5.2	143,860	210	8.3	106,705	236	8.4
Partnership	15,999	1,371	16.1	16,003	253	15.2	6,639	722	20.9	3,367	1,145	22.0
Corporation	*4,876	1,788	33.3	*989	645	17.9	4,216	700	24.6	*3,928	924	43.7
Tenure:												
Full owner	76,327	448	15.4	193,265	108	6.6	100,769	174	12.6	65,306	151	12.7
Part owner	92,799	1,302	8.0	95,361	230	7.4	45,467	376	8.1	39,552	392	10.0
Tenant	21,874	766	17.9	14,374	190	21.2	9,264	374	22.5	9,142	796	12.6
Acreage class:												
49 or fewer acres	28,269	20	12.8	110,078	22	4.4	60,560	23	6.6	34,977	23	8.4
50-179 acres	31,059	116	4.5	121,736	98	2.3	47,779	101	3.3	33,945	105	4.7
180-499 acres	45,232	363	2.7	55,018	295	2.5	28,970	291	3.7	29,447	318	3.8
500-999 acres	39,262	727	2.0	11,967	661	3.8	11,173	679	2.6	9,072	685	3.0
1,000 or more acres	47,177	2,599	6.0	4,201	1,679	8.7	7,018	2,251	8.4	6,559	1,932	5.4
Sales class:												
\$9,999 or less	46,500	75	14.1	197,900	83	7.1	92,400	99	17.6	66,500	101	11.3
\$10,000-\$49,999	61,443	481	6.8	70,119	186	7.6	32,265	304	11.4	20,550	294	17.5
\$50,000-\$99,999	39,257	1,100	13.0	15,481	299	11.3	11,035	531	18.2	10,150	507	13.7
\$100,000-\$249,999	32,100	1,769	9.4	13,000	487	11.0	11,500	434	13.8	9,900	616	11.2
\$250,000-\$499,999	7,940	2,821	12.7	4,060	872	21.2	4,950	540	16.5	3,820	876	12.6
\$500,000 or more	3,760	4,352	22.6	2,440	672	20.3	3,350	1,651	24.2	3,080	1,707	17.1
Net farm income/solvency class:												
Favorable	129,854	932	8.8	232,958	149	5.3	112,506	228	9.7	69,869	275	9.8
Marginal income	39,372	679	18.2	56,128	161	12.0	36,557	259	12.4	36,077	274	13.6
Marginal solvency	12,960	1,375	15.2	*9,068	145	40.5	3,482	542	24.3	5,554	529	20.8
Vulnerable	*8,813	703	30.1	d	d	na	*2,955	366	37.4	*2,499	246	36.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 1—Mean acres operated, by organization, tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and region, 1992—Continued

Item	Southern Plains			Mountain			Pacific		
	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All farms	254,000	778	16.1	117,500	1,488	9.9	156,500	341	10.9
Organization: ²									
Individual	237,237	698	18.1	100,774	982	11.2	132,391	243	11.8
Partnership	*12,706	1,739	30.9	7,962	2,903	30.2	17,832	859	26.7
Corporation	*3,857	2,553	38.2	8,733	6,036	20.7	6,234	929	19.7
Tenure:									
Full owner	138,059	391	31.2	63,812	780	19.8	98,902	122	16.7
Part owner	94,377	1,156	19.7	38,977	2,743	9.8	39,026	714	13.3
Tenant	21,565	1,601	41.0	14,711	1,232	30.8	18,572	722	25.1
Acreage class:									
49 or fewer acres	48,684	25	6.0	31,295	21	9.5	88,149	17	6.6
50-179 acres	77,789	99	4.2	23,880	102	6.9	30,631	99	5.4
180-499 acres	67,253	282	4.5	19,482	292	5.0	14,014	307	3.9
500-999 acres	26,098	735	2.5	11,676	741	3.1	10,419	681	4.5
1,000 or more acres	34,176	4,406	17.0	31,168	5,049	8.2	13,287	2,813	8.4
Sales class:									
\$9,999 or less	145,500	225	35.2	48,900	213	35.7	80,300	64	23.7
\$10,000-\$49,999	66,433	578	12.4	32,730	1,034	13.7	33,345	325	22.8
\$50,000-\$99,999	20,767	1,923	42.0	17,970	1,743	12.6	13,055	350	24.2
\$100,000-\$249,999	13,600	3,753	36.3	11,100	4,391	16.4	15,800	931	23.0
\$250,000-\$499,999	4,450	3,213	30.2	3,800	7,122	22.7	5,400	1,183	21.0
\$500,000 or more	3,250	6,520	30.2	3,000	7,795	25.3	8,600	1,361	18.0
Net farm income/solvency class:									
Favorable	141,922	846	20.4	70,569	1,599	13.4	88,692	414	14.0
Marginal income	99,327	672	30.1	33,574	1,113	17.4	48,754	207	15.6
Marginal solvency	5,517	1,319	35.1	7,364	2,194	38.6	*5,848	582	43.0
Vulnerable	*7,233	503	24.4	5,993	1,404	39.1	13,207	238	36.7

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. d=Data insufficient for disclosure. na=Not applicable.

¹The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.²This classification excludes cooperative farms. Therefore, categories may not sum to the all farms total.

Appendix table 2—Mean acres operated, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and region, 1992

Item	All farms			Northeast			Lake States			Corn Belt		
	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All farms	2,090,700	440	3.9	145,200	165	5.5	221,000	263	4.6	433,000	285	3.9
Farm type:												
Cash grains	390,607	594	3.0	11,294	267	12.3	54,909	384	8.2	164,789	412	4.5
Tobacco	90,515	150	9.2	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Cotton	23,040	1,021	11.5	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Other field crops	220,656	248	7.8	26,583	115	9.4	38,526	171	9.9	43,093	103	13.3
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	97,371	140	9.8	12,264	133	12.1	*9,006	139	27.7	d	d	na
Nursery or greenhouse	58,333	62	26.5	13,725	40	29.6	d	d	na	d	d	na
Beef, hogs, or sheep	921,702	541	7.0	33,009	134	22.2	38,618	218	12.1	171,866	237	6.8
Poultry	30,736	143	23.0	4,558	73	26.2	d	d	na	d	d	na
Dairy	140,201	340	4.4	32,384	297	5.4	54,390	323	7.2	23,518	321	11.5
Other livestock	117,538	230	17.6	10,262	121	22.5	d	d	na	d	d	na
Operator occupation:												
Farming	1,122,794	642	4.2	76,133	223	5.0	135,311	350	5.0	249,327	394	4.2
Hired farm manager	14,769	1,943	24.1	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Other occupation	953,137	178	11.1	68,563	100	14.8	84,606	123	9.5	180,823	132	7.2
Operator education:												
Less than high school	453,324	300	7.7	35,272	162	17.9	45,799	184	12.5	82,245	190	12.2
High school	861,404	398	6.0	58,564	182	6.4	111,929	260	6.2	204,846	302	5.1
Some college	428,013	584	10.1	25,240	147	11.2	40,000	312	10.6	82,175	298	8.7
College	347,960	546	8.8	26,123	149	11.5	23,273	343	16.7	63,734	332	10.5
Operator age:												
Younger than 35 years	198,500	448	12.5	11,203	146	14.1	25,641	233	16.3	48,412	276	14.1
35-44 years	409,650	444	6.1	35,001	167	9.3	51,031	275	8.6	89,677	345	7.4
45-54 years	498,479	438	8.1	35,999	157	9.0	52,932	305	10.8	89,866	318	7.3
55-64 years	476,079	466	7.6	33,521	185	16.8	49,157	261	9.6	91,954	290	7.8
65 years or older	507,991	409	11.3	29,477	158	9.8	42,240	215	12.5	113,092	210	9.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 2—Mean acres operated, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and region, 1992—Continued

Item	Northern Plains			Appalachian			Southeast			Delta States		
	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All farms	191,000	899	7.0	303,000	150	4.9	155,500	245	7.4	114,000	286	8.3
Farm type:												
Cash grains	86,457	827	5.4	9,363	471	15.4	7,472	296	20.0	11,854	777	8.9
Tobacco	d	d	na	77,941	138	10.6	*4,414	386	23.5	d	d	na
Cotton	d	d	na	d	d	na	*2,361	699	19.5	5,054	1,139	14.4
Other field crops	13,152	302	21.9	16,661	210	22.7	18,625	432	19.1	*9,402	277	14.0
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	d	d	na	d	d	na	12,342	155	24.9	d	d	na
Nursery or greenhouse	d	d	na	*8,092	51	28.3	8,024	128	62.7	d	d	na
Beef, hogs, or sheep	77,734	1,169	12.3	154,381	126	6.5	86,348	212	10.3	67,607	181	12.6
Poultry	d	d	na	*4,533	104	14.0	6,151	201	35.2	5,254	156	18.5
Dairy	d	d	na	7,843	327	11.2	*1,990	360	20.4	d	d	na
Other livestock	d	d	na	17,034	149	23.9	*7,772	159	29.9	*8,145	129	25.9
Operator occupation:												
Farming	139,293	1,104	7.0	135,010	217	6.3	73,510	338	9.3	55,124	435	8.6
Hired farm manager	d	d	na	d	d	na	*985	2,408	42.0	d	d	na
Other occupation	50,685	260	14.7	167,117	95	6.7	81,005	133	10.7	58,441	129	11.6
Operator education:												
Less than high school	43,437	717	17.1	100,563	126	8.1	42,209	162	14.3	22,087	195	23.0
High school	82,801	768	10.8	126,784	151	8.2	59,451	221	10.3	50,610	246	10.7
Some college	38,977	1,241	14.9	39,963	174	11.5	30,949	310	18.0	25,892	339	13.6
College	25,784	1,111	14.0	35,689	191	10.7	22,891	372	16.1	15,412	461	17.3
Operator age:												
Younger than 35 years	18,564	951	26.5	24,912	147	21.7	12,904	165	18.6	9,149	429	18.0
35-44 years	33,371	1,015	10.2	49,256	162	11.7	21,492	290	15.1	23,218	241	17.3
45-54 years	41,484	1,019	15.2	83,029	138	7.9	42,057	267	12.9	27,726	328	16.4
55-64 years	47,449	865	11.1	71,642	170	9.9	36,090	225	11.0	25,791	321	11.2
65 years or older	50,131	736	18.6	74,161	139	9.0	42,956	241	18.3	28,116	205	17.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 2—Mean acres operated, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and region, 1992—Continued

Item	Southern Plains			Mountain			Pacific		
	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All farms	254,000	778	16.1	117,500	1,488	9.9	156,500	341	10.9
Farm type:									
Cash grain	17,075	789	13.3	18,081	1,532	13.9	9,313	1,250	12.1
Tobacco	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Cotton	10,051	1,272	19.2	*1,071	548	33.2	*2,065	910	14.5
Other field crops	12,942	360	31.6	24,020	460	27.2	17,653	383	18.6
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	d	d	na	*3,580	259	37.2	41,868	127	18.4
Nursery or greenhouse	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Beef, hogs, or sheep	185,710	854	20.5	54,146	2,322	11.8	52,283	384	19.5
Poultry	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Dairy	4,375	579	23.0	3,865	283	16.5	4,536	408	23.5
Other livestock	16,794	283	28.0	11,549	657	40.4	*13,585	367	65.4
Operator occupation:									
Farming	112,100	1,210	17.6	68,034	2,155	9.4	78,951	558	11.8
Hired farm manager	d	d	na	*2,531	5,770	34.6	r	482	45.4
Other occupation	140,147	426	32.4	46,935	289	20.7	74,816	107	21.0
Operator education:									
Less than high school	46,413	546	26.2	18,840	1,127	19.4	16,459	286	24.1
High school	72,438	706	29.2	39,561	1,665	18.5	54,420	292	18.2
Some college	63,814	1,107	32.9	33,040	1,434	15.3	47,962	370	23.5
College	71,335	709	27.8	26,059	1,547	22.6	37,660	399	14.8
Operator age:									
Younger than 35 years	20,344	595	29.0	13,086	1,952	36.9	14,286	201	30.2
35-44 years	44,774	471	16.3	31,104	1,409	21.1	30,728	409	27.0
45-54 years	60,345	744	32.8	23,102	1,608	14.7	41,939	285	18.9
55-64 years	57,478	926	26.5	27,473	1,421	17.9	35,524	406	19.8
65 years or older	71,058	935	33.6	22,735	1,286	18.8	34,024	338	19.8

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. r=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 50 percent. d=Data insufficient for disclosure. na=Not applicable.

¹The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Appendix table 3—Mean sales, by organization, tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and region, 1992

Item	All farms			Northeast			Lake States			Corn Belt		
	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent
All farms	2,090,700	67,010	3.1	145,200	58,353	7.2	221,000	68,824	6.8	433,000	67,913	4.4
Organization: ²												
Individual	1,906,201	49,302	3.1	128,897	47,171	8.3	200,357	57,406	7.5	400,103	56,119	4.8
Partnership	127,635	154,272	7.3	12,268	113,847	17.2	14,346	101,681	21.7	20,513	188,453	10.1
Corporation	55,529	463,787	12.3	4,034	246,862	30.9	*6,298	357,258	22.3	12,364	248,664	21.0
Tenure:												
Full owner	1,161,280	32,855	6.8	78,171	29,176	13.0	122,493	31,031	15.1	224,175	26,244	9.0
Part owner	756,970	107,791	3.6	56,820	89,900	9.3	88,543	116,826	7.2	166,048	116,040	5.2
Tenant	172,450	118,004	7.5	10,209	106,178	23.9	9,964	106,883	17.2	42,777	99,462	10.0
Acreage class:												
49 or fewer acres	580,130	17,366	9.9	45,453	30,338	23.3	45,346	9,356	27.7	87,319	17,040	23.6
50-179 acres	630,898	30,291	7.5	55,265	27,721	17.1	67,396	35,189	20.9	141,418	23,513	16.0
180-499 acres	505,054	65,867	5.7	37,270	93,015	9.3	77,684	70,692	7.8	130,683	68,638	5.6
500-999 acres	197,608	138,493	4.3	5,381	251,638	14.9	21,806	187,292	9.3	50,754	159,832	5.2
1,000 or more acres	177,011	284,042	5.7	1,831	404,796	21.2	8,769	323,726	14.7	22,826	329,061	8.3
Sales class:												
\$9,999 or less	1,003,400	3,158	5.6	71,700	2,605	9.8	87,200	2,846	9.0	166,500	3,401	6.4
\$10,000-\$49,999	529,687	24,495	1.9	32,303	23,078	7.9	54,736	25,609	6.5	125,762	27,073	4.2
\$50,000-\$99,999	231,613	78,028	3.3	15,897	70,580	6.1	29,764	75,049	3.7	58,238	80,290	2.6
\$100,000-\$249,999	217,500	159,680	1.4	17,700	136,811	2.9	36,000	150,447	4.2	56,800	163,649	2.3
\$250,000-\$499,999	67,500	318,823	1.5	4,730	330,325	4.7	10,000	305,693	3.4	18,350	316,729	3.0
\$500,000 or more	41,000	1,210,516	6.2	2,870	848,263	9.7	3,300	864,681	15.6	7,350	768,967	7.8
Net farm income/solvency class:												
Favorable	1,368,278	66,478	3.3	89,575	67,031	8.5	137,760	73,987	8.8	294,573	65,604	4.9
Marginal income	550,307	40,311	6.6	47,322	28,329	20.2	59,195	39,296	15.3	94,002	52,519	12.4
Marginal solvency	93,655	233,844	12.0	5,902	175,954	16.1	13,681	139,089	23.3	24,278	168,054	13.8
Vulnerable	78,460	64,411	10.8	d	d	na	10,364	76,100	23.5	20,148	52,822	20.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 3—Mean sales, by organization, tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and region, 1992—Continued

Item	Northern Plains			Appalachian			Southeast			Delta States		
	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent
All farms	191,000	91,098	10.1	303,000	31,110	8.4	155,500	66,766	12.4	114,000	70,083	9.3
Organization: ²												
Individual	169,997	71,845	7.1	285,881	27,403	9.5	143,860	42,661	10.5	106,705	50,826	10.8
Partnership	15,999	129,243	16.4	16,003	73,262	18.6	6,639	174,590	49.2	3,367	357,073	24.1
Corporation	*4,876	635,399	54.6	*989	424,288	45.1	4,216	706,631	33.4	*3,928	347,207	48.2
Tenure:												
Full owner	76,327	32,884	16.3	193,265	18,672	15.5	100,769	49,020	18.0	65,306	47,295	19.0
Part owner	92,799	138,063	12.6	95,361	53,575	9.5	45,467	89,002	12.5	39,552	77,090	12.5
Tenant	21,874	94,982	15.0	14,374	49,303	22.4	9,264	150,660	53.3	9,142	202,557	14.1
Acreage class:												
49 or fewer acres	28,269	9,408	28.9	110,078	10,969	19.9	60,560	28,419	25.3	34,977	8,759	31.4
50-179 acres	31,059	25,768	41.7	121,736	21,395	18.8	47,779	35,704	19.0	33,945	56,951	26.7
180-499 acres	45,232	48,469	8.4	55,018	53,569	12.6	28,970	52,117	14.1	29,447	55,089	23.2
500-999 acres	39,262	79,447	7.7	11,967	101,707	14.5	11,173	138,911	12.5	9,072	149,372	11.8
1,000 or more acres	47,177	233,624	13.8	4,201	345,116	14.5	7,018	554,775	29.5	6,559	422,745	14.6
Sales class:												
\$9,999 or less	46,500	3,810	11.5	197,900	3,278	5.3	92,400	2,457	6.3	66,500	2,603	9.4
\$10,000-\$49,999	61,443	29,444	5.0	70,119	23,389	4.3	32,265	20,561	6.1	20,550	15,996	9.8
\$50,000-\$99,999	39,257	75,437	3.8	15,481	73,998	6.2	11,035	74,185	6.4	10,150	103,131	31.0
\$100,000-\$249,999	32,100	156,881	3.7	13,000	172,286	4.5	11,500	171,606	6.6	9,900	189,985	4.7
\$250,000-\$499,999	7,940	310,614	4.5	4,060	350,716	3.7	4,950	323,648	9.8	3,820	347,091	3.5
\$500,000 or more	3,760	1,316,424	29.3	2,440	954,207	9.6	3,350	1,521,619	20.4	3,080	1,050,048	8.8
Net farm income/solvency class:												
Favorable	129,854	81,667	7.3	232,958	31,689	8.9	112,506	55,256	12.2	69,869	76,909	12.6
Marginal income	39,372	67,221	19.7	56,128	20,956	20.4	36,557	32,322	17.9	36,077	28,851	19.1
Marginal solvency	12,960	266,971	43.5	*9,068	75,585	41.0	3,482	738,792	36.5	5,554	262,657	17.5
Vulnerable	*8,813	78,092	31.0	d	d	na	*2,955	139,125	44.7	*2,499	46,507	45.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 3—Mean sales, by organization, tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and region, 1992—Continued

Item	Southern Plains			Mountain			Pacific		
	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent
All farms	254,000	51,463	15.5	117,500	82,387	10.5	156,500	121,784	11.9
Organization: ²									
Individual	237,237	36,184	13.5	100,774	47,857	9.2	132,391	67,453	17.3
Partnership	*12,706	129,699	28.9	7,962	168,896	16.7	17,832	245,353	24.2
Corporation	*3,857	693,758	58.0	8,733	362,176	23.9	6,234	919,760	24.4
Tenure:									
Full owner	138,059	28,416	36.9	63,812	44,907	12.6	98,902	53,110	27.5
Part owner	94,377	78,923	14.5	38,977	137,569	13.4	39,026	231,812	14.7
Tenant	21,565	78,829	21.1	14,711	98,758	31.6	18,572	256,290	22.0
Acreage class:									
49 or fewer acres	48,684	9,038	55.3	31,295	16,014	23.1	88,149	26,566	27.8
50-179 acres	77,789	7,070	15.3	23,880	52,098	25.7	30,631	99,370	24.6
180-499 acres	67,253	43,394	45.7	19,482	99,034	33.2	14,014	158,347	20.0
500-999 acres	26,098	77,103	13.3	11,676	121,543	27.9	10,419	301,569	24.7
1,000 or more acres	34,176	209,237	14.8	31,168	147,165	7.7	13,287	625,613	19.8
Sales class:									
\$9,999 or less	145,500	4,511	24.6	48,900	2,579	12.8	80,300	1,981	10.2
\$10,000-\$49,999	66,433	21,813	5.7	32,730	25,909	4.4	33,345	20,513	5.7
\$50,000-\$99,999	20,767	89,686	23.6	17,970	72,366	2.7	13,055	69,351	3.6
\$100,000-\$249,999	13,600	161,041	5.3	11,100	172,631	4.1	15,800	149,440	6.9
\$250,000-\$499,999	4,450	308,740	4.8	3,800	315,022	3.9	5,400	314,829	4.5
\$500,000 or more	3,250	1,704,474	26.3	3,000	1,430,878	17.2	8,600	1,540,643	14.0
Net farm income/solvency class:									
Favorable	141,922	59,120	18.9	70,569	82,941	12.4	88,692	130,987	12.7
Marginal income	99,327	33,517	26.1	33,574	44,584	15.5	48,754	55,561	20.4
Marginal solvency	5,517	157,323	29.5	7,364	272,913	33.9	*5,848	653,997	43.9
Vulnerable	*7,233	66,905	31.5	5,993	53,527	23.0	13,207	68,783	32.8

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

* = The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. d = Data insufficient for disclosure. na = Not applicable.

¹ The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.² This classification excludes cooperative farms. Therefore, categories may not sum to the all farms total.

Appendix table 4—Mean sales, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and region, 1992

Item	All farms			Northeast			Lake States			Corn Belt		
	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent
All farms	2,090,700	67,010	3.1	145,200	58,353	7.2	221,000	68,824	6.8	433,000	67,913	4.4
Farm type:												
Cash grains	390,607	84,908	3.1	11,294	49,748	17.3	54,909	64,017	9.5	164,789	87,977	5.1
Tobacco	90,515	36,017	10.9	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Cotton	23,040	238,806	13.5	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Other field crops	220,656	33,496	9.0	26,583	10,533	18.6	38,526	12,935	17.7	43,093	4,091	16.3
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	97,371	128,124	13.8	12,264	67,009	18.1	*9,006	50,081	31.0	d	d	na
Nursery or greenhouse	58,333	79,369	18.0	13,725	46,212	37.4	d	d	na	d	d	na
Beef, hogs, or sheep	921,702	44,051	7.4	33,009	16,373	24.2	38,618	55,958	17.0	171,866	59,674	8.1
Poultry	30,736	286,427	14.5	4,558	252,583	26.9	d	d	na	d	d	na
Dairy	140,201	152,805	4.4	32,384	133,210	7.2	54,390	120,915	6.6	23,518	107,749	11.8
Other livestock	117,538	24,204	20.2	10,262	10,715	53.1	d	d	na	d	d	na
Operator occupation:												
Farming	1,122,794	102,343	2.7	76,133	96,027	7.1	135,311	104,099	6.5	249,327	102,908	4.4
Hired farm manager	14,769	780,952	26.7	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Other occupation	953,137	14,324	6.2	68,563	11,502	24.5	84,606	10,528	20.7	180,823	18,937	9.5
Operator education:												
Less than high school	453,324	40,391	6.6	35,272	54,396	14.7	45,799	41,419	19.0	82,245	41,389	13.0
High school	861,404	64,031	4.3	58,564	62,048	10.7	111,929	65,947	8.5	204,846	67,999	6.0
Some college	428,013	74,364	5.4	25,240	53,935	15.4	40,000	92,675	14.2	82,175	71,942	11.4
College	347,960	100,017	8.8	26,123	59,682	22.6	23,273	95,600	26.1	63,734	96,667	12.0
Operator age:												
Younger than 35 years	198,500	85,885	8.6	11,203	73,962	27.7	25,641	73,248	18.5	48,412	89,195	14.1
35-44 years	409,650	92,288	6.2	35,001	79,448	14.8	51,031	96,499	14.4	89,677	93,784	7.9
45-54 years	498,479	69,835	5.5	35,999	56,008	12.8	52,932	78,337	12.6	89,866	72,795	9.5
55-64 years	476,079	63,918	6.6	33,521	50,646	14.6	49,157	56,072	16.7	91,954	68,473	9.4
65 years or older	507,991	39,376	8.3	29,477	39,002	19.0	42,240	35,623	20.0	113,092	33,951	10.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 4—Mean sales, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and region, 1992—Continued

Item	Northern Plains			Appalachian			Southeast			Delta States		
	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent
All farms	191,000	91,098	10.1	303,000	31,110	8.4	155,500	66,766	12.4	114,000	70,083	9.3
Farm type:												
Cash grains	86,457	84,052	6.0	9,363	88,544	17.2	7,472	45,622	26.3	11,854	156,756	10.8
Tobacco	d	d	na	77,941	33,050	12.8	*4,414	100,336	21.2	d	d	na
Cotton	d	d	na	d	d	na	*2,361	139,683	12.2	5,054	283,456	17.9
Other field crops	13,152	20,162	20.2	16,661	15,616	26.9	18,625	84,115	28.1	*9,402	37,571	25.7
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	d	d	na	d	d	na	12,342	163,102	40.3	d	d	na
Nursery or greenhouse	d	d	na	*8,092	55,512	28.0	8,024	108,946	37.2	d	d	na
Beef, hogs, or sheep	77,734	118,111	18.5	154,381	15,287	20.5	86,348	17,112	21.8	67,607	17,676	25.0
Poultry	d	d	na	*4,533	240,413	28.2	6,151	416,278	22.9	5,254	443,373	16.8
Dairy	d	d	na	7,843	133,563	14.5	*1,990	302,029	25.4	d	d	na
Other livestock	d	d	na	17,034	22,562	48.4	*7,772	22,549	32.4	*8,145	23,943	42.0
Operator occupation:												
Farming	139,293	103,820	6.5	135,010	57,369	9.2	73,510	99,490	11.6	55,124	111,216	11.5
Hired farm manager	d	d	na	d	d	na	*985	2,051,033	46.9	d	d	na
Other occupation	50,685	19,531	18.0	167,117	8,668	10.2	81,005	12,932	18.8	58,441	22,389	29.9
Operator education:												
Less than high school	43,437	50,046	13.4	100,563	23,893	19.1	42,209	35,757	19.6	22,087	39,296	41.8
High school	82,801	75,853	9.4	126,784	29,392	11.8	59,451	74,926	21.2	50,610	63,012	17.5
Some college	38,977	111,718	14.1	39,963	42,085	17.1	30,949	61,233	19.1	25,892	79,486	18.1
College	25,784	178,038	32.7	35,689	45,256	21.2	22,891	110,228	29.5	15,412	121,628	22.5
Operator age:												
Younger than 35 years	18,564	124,406	21.4	24,912	37,429	26.0	12,904	75,275	40.8	9,149	114,037	20.8
35-44 years	33,371	160,482	28.3	49,256	46,652	15.4	21,492	81,294	15.3	23,218	76,668	21.5
45-54 years	41,484	84,910	13.1	83,029	37,304	18.4	42,057	91,182	23.5	27,726	76,410	21.1
55-64 years	47,449	78,603	10.7	71,642	27,586	13.1	36,090	48,456	15.8	25,791	81,219	24.1
65 years or older	50,131	49,523	14.5	74,161	15,133	16.1	42,956	48,418	33.8	28,116	33,891	36.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 4—Mean sales, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and region, 1992—Continued

Item	Southern Plains			Mountain			Pacific		
	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ¹
	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent
All farms	254,000	51,463	15.5	117,500	82,387	10.5	156,500	121,784	11.9
Farm type:									
Cash grain	17,075	87,451	14.4	18,081	87,569	13.5	9,313	130,961	9.9
Tobacco	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Cotton	10,051	194,991	29.4	*1,071	190,590	35.4	*2,065	641,092	18.3
Other field crops	12,942	30,492	25.2	24,020	57,205	14.6	17,653	125,903	21.9
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	d	d	na	*3,580	106,220	27.1	41,868	178,565	19.9
Nursery or greenhouse	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Beef, hogs, or sheep	185,710	34,766	24.7	54,146	84,397	17.9	52,283	45,981	51.5
Poultry	d	d	na	d	d	na	d	d	na
Dairy	4,375	227,800	21.2	3,865	302,385	16.3	4,536	732,345	15.7
Other livestock	16,794	51,871	54.5	11,549	16,581	31.1	*13,585	21,700	52.7
Operator occupation:									
Farming	112,100	83,311	11.8	68,034	108,178	6.9	78,951	196,404	11.9
Hired farm manager	d	d	na	*2,531	635,970	49.6	r	901,161	70.4
Other occupation	140,147	13,950	18.1	46,935	15,143	36.3	74,816	14,560	30.9
Operator education:									
Less than high school	46,413	38,737	35.9	18,840	37,355	15.4	16,459	99,350	21.1
High school	72,438	48,470	18.0	39,561	73,230	12.9	54,420	113,071	25.3
Some college	63,814	54,097	19.3	33,040	106,735	19.7	47,962	80,908	17.0
College	71,335	60,424	35.6	26,059	97,974	21.0	37,660	196,236	19.8
Operator age:									
Younger than 35 years	20,344	46,298	26.5	13,086	71,961	19.9	14,286	201,827	35.6
35-44 years	44,774	71,020	22.5	31,104	91,540	17.8	30,728	145,886	21.8
45-54 years	60,345	45,879	17.6	23,102	108,451	25.1	41,939	101,563	22.1
55-64 years	57,478	78,357	34.2	27,473	72,618	14.2	35,524	102,217	18.7
65 years or older	71,058	23,606	15.6	22,735	61,186	24.0	34,024	111,763	33.1

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. r=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 50 percent. d=Data insufficient for disclosure. na=Not applicable.

¹The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Appendix table 5—Mean acres operated, by tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and organization, 1992

Item	All farms ¹			Individual			Partnership			Corporation		
	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ²
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All farms	2,090,700	440	3.9	1,906,201	369	4.6	127,635	921	9.6	55,529	1,772	12.7
Tenure:												
Full owner	1,161,280	221	7.9	1,080,355	180	9.1	55,061	454	15.8	24,895	1,491	26.3
Part owner	756,970	720	4.8	680,549	626	5.7	54,231	1,261	12.3	21,892	2,308	14.3
Tenant	172,450	680	14.0	145,297	567	18.1	18,343	1,312	24.5	8,741	1,228	29.5
Acreage class:												
49 or fewer acres	580,130	21	2.3	544,051	21	2.4	26,011	21	11.6	*9,236	25	14.4
50-179 acres	630,898	102	1.2	598,746	102	1.2	21,933	104	6.6	*10,092	110	7.2
180-499 acres	505,054	303	1.2	466,846	301	1.2	29,474	325	3.4	8,716	330	6.6
500-999 acres	197,608	695	0.9	168,989	692	1.0	20,617	703	1.9	7,744	745	3.5
1,000 or more acres	177,011	3,118	5.4	127,570	2,921	7.3	29,600	3,061	10.4	19,741	4,478	12.1
Sales class:												
\$9,999 or less	1,003,400	111	11.1	958,930	110	11.6	34,850	119	21.4	d	d	na
\$10,000-\$49,999	529,687	351	4.4	491,421	339	4.5	28,768	503	18.6	*9,442	536	39.6
\$50,000-\$99,999	231,613	731	11.1	207,344	722	12.6	17,988	727	14.0	*6,282	1,021	22.6
\$100,000-\$249,999	217,500	1,122	9.6	181,631	1,009	12.0	22,689	1,245	13.8	12,332	2,612	24.6
\$250,000-\$499,999	67,500	1,607	9.2	46,052	1,349	9.7	14,163	1,729	22.0	7,239	3,005	26.1
\$500,000 or more	41,000	2,440	10.3	20,823	1,710	15.2	9,177	3,603	20.3	10,742	2,901	17.6
Net farm income/solvency class:												
Favorable	1,368,278	441	5.0	1,255,167	363	5.9	77,427	1,006	11.4	34,500	1,998	16.1
Marginal income	550,307	390	9.7	497,133	355	11.4	35,977	523	13.1	17,052	1,128	22.2
Marginal solvency	93,655	743	11.6	82,697	550	9.5	7,897	2,099	34.0	3,055	2,469	37.1
Vulnerable	78,460	406	13.6	71,205	351	15.9	*6,334	668	31.5	922	2,890	32.9

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent.

d=Data insufficient for disclosure.

na=Not applicable.

¹This category includes cooperative farms which are not included in the farm organization categories.²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Appendix table 6—Mean acres operated, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and organization, 1992

Item	All farms ¹			Individual			Partnership			Corporation		
	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean acres	RSE of mean ²
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All farms	2,090,700	440	3.9	1,906,201	369	4.6	127,635	921	9.6	55,529	1,772	12.7
Farm type:												
Cash grains	390,607	594	3.0	350,121	505	3.1	28,312	1,136	7.8	12,098	1,911	13.2
Tobacco	90,515	150	9.2	87,321	144	9.5	*3,063	277	35.0	d	d	na
Cotton	23,040	1,021	11.5	18,593	912	15.2	2,485	1,571	10.5	*1,942	1,358	26.7
Other field crops	220,656	248	7.8	202,637	202	6.4	11,887	596	22.1	*5,991	1,107	48.5
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	97,371	140	9.8	80,953	80	10.3	10,718	228	26.0	5,507	827	23.7
Nursery or greenhouse	58,333	62	26.5	50,608	59	30.6	d	d	na	*3,638	45	29.0
Beef, hogs, or sheep	921,702	541	7.0	864,274	449	8.1	40,351	1,386	18.4	17,033	3,214	23.1
Poultry	30,736	143	23.0	27,263	120	26.3	d	d	na	d	d	na
Dairy	140,201	340	4.4	120,997	293	4.9	14,758	575	8.7	*4,418	823	17.6
Other livestock	117,538	230	17.6	103,435	186	17.2	*10,985	513	58.6	d	d	na
Operator occupation:												
Farming	1,122,794	642	4.2	998,927	543	5.0	90,898	1,131	10.8	32,644	2,298	14.3
Hired farm manager	14,769	1,943	24.1	*6,904	1,120	58.4	d	d	na	6,636	2,807	23.7
Other occupation	953,137	178	11.1	900,370	169	12.2	35,521	348	16.5	16,248	292	23.5
Operator education:												
Less than high school	453,324	300	7.7	429,496	269	7.5	22,286	773	33.0	*1,506	1,991	50.4
High school	861,404	398	6.0	789,652	339	6.7	50,871	831	14.6	20,817	1,600	25.4
Some college	428,013	584	10.1	378,685	504	12.6	32,299	844	17.1	16,774	1,902	20.7
College	347,960	546	8.8	308,368	418	10.7	22,179	1,385	19.1	16,431	1,836	21.1
Operator age:												
Younger than 35 years	198,500	448	12.5	176,790	338	11.2	16,824	1,093	40.9	*4,887	2,206	49.9
35-44 years	409,650	444	6.1	361,045	335	5.2	34,173	789	13.5	14,329	2,365	25.3
45-54 years	498,479	438	8.1	458,891	381	9.7	24,563	773	14.8	13,993	1,754	17.9
55-64 years	476,079	466	7.6	436,065	388	8.7	26,950	1,296	17.4	12,872	1,360	29.8
65 years or older	507,991	409	11.3	473,411	376	13.1	25,125	725	19.1	9,447	1,234	24.1

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent.

d=Data insufficient for disclosure.

na=Not applicable.

¹This category includes cooperative farms which are not included in the farm organization categories.²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Appendix table 7—Mean sales, by tenure, acreage, sales, solvency, and organization, 1992

Item	All farms ¹			Individual			Partnership			Corporation		
	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ²
	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent
All farms	2,090,700	67,010	3.1	1,906,201	49,302	3.1	127,635	154,272	7.3	55,529	463,787	12.3
Tenure:												
Full owner	1,161,280	32,855	6.8	1,080,355	23,879	6.8	55,061	72,579	17.8	24,895	331,727	23.4
Part owner	756,970	107,791	3.6	680,549	83,992	3.4	54,231	206,005	8.7	21,892	596,685	16.2
Tenant	172,450	118,004	7.5	145,297	75,856	6.6	18,343	246,544	14.2	8,741	507,053	27.8
Acreage class:												
49 or fewer acres	580,130	17,366	9.9	544,051	12,714	9.1	26,011	36,563	27.5	*9,236	228,266	39.0
50-179 acres	630,898	30,291	7.5	598,746	25,695	7.6	21,933	53,387	33.4	*10,092	253,161	33.6
180-499 acres	505,054	65,867	5.7	466,846	57,593	4.3	29,474	96,024	10.8	8,716	405,856	43.1
500-999 acres	197,608	138,493	4.3	168,989	116,706	4.0	20,617	202,081	9.7	7,744	382,200	24.9
1,000 or more acres	177,011	284,042	5.7	127,570	196,516	6.8	29,600	357,158	10.2	19,741	739,231	14.9
Sales class:												
\$9,999 or less	1,003,400	3,158	5.6	958,930	3,115	5.9	34,850	3,837	11.4	d	d	na
\$10,000-\$49,999	529,687	24,495	1.9	491,421	24,487	2.0	28,768	26,281	7.9	*9,442	19,421	20.7
\$50,000-\$99,999	231,613	78,028	3.3	207,344	76,650	2.5	17,988	70,496	6.0	*6,282	145,099	48.9
\$100,000-\$249,999	217,500	159,680	1.4	181,631	156,991	1.5	22,689	170,226	3.6	12,332	181,465	5.2
\$250,000-\$499,999	67,500	318,823	1.5	46,052	317,937	1.7	14,163	313,348	4.2	7,239	334,573	3.7
\$500,000 or more	41,000	1,210,516	6.2	20,823	956,167	7.3	9,177	1,006,053	9.1	10,742	1,857,342	13.2
Net farm income/solvency class:												
Favorable	1,368,278	66,478	3.3	1,255,167	49,925	3.2	77,427	160,486	7.7	34,500	441,733	14.1
Marginal income	550,307	40,311	6.6	497,133	31,138	7.6	35,977	78,839	15.3	17,052	224,532	21.1
Marginal solvency	93,655	233,844	12.0	82,697	148,950	11.9	7,897	475,002	21.5	3,055	1,907,296	35.2
Vulnerable	78,460	64,411	10.8	71,205	49,426	11.8	*6,334	106,857	28.2	922	930,504	27.1

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent.

d=Data insufficient for disclosure.

na=Not applicable.

¹This category includes cooperative farms which are not included in the farm organization categories.²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Appendix table 8—Mean sales, by farm type, selected operator characteristics, and organization, 1992

Item	All farms ¹			Individual			Partnership			Corporation		
	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean sales	RSE of mean ²
	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent	Farms	Dollars	Percent
All farms	2,090,700	67,010	3.1	1,906,201	49,302	3.1	127,635	154,272	7.3	55,529	463,787	12.3
Farm type:												
Cash grains	390,607	84,908	3.1	350,121	72,295	3.4	28,312	166,124	8.0	12,098	258,091	11.3
Tobacco	90,515	36,017	10.9	87,321	33,684	11.6	*3,063	85,580	37.0	d	d	na
Cotton	23,040	238,806	13.5	18,593	191,810	18.8	2,485	510,697	14.4	*1,942	337,721	39.6
Other field crops	220,656	33,496	9.0	202,637	20,532	8.8	11,887	99,023	21.3	*5,991	341,489	35.6
Vegetables, fruits, or nuts	97,371	128,124	13.8	80,953	48,443	15.4	10,718	201,535	32.2	5,507	1,131,834	26.6
Nursery or greenhouse	58,333	79,369	18.0	50,608	49,473	23.0	d	d	na	*3,638	478,636	35.1
Beef, hogs, or sheep	921,702	44,051	7.4	864,274	33,142	6.8	40,351	95,460	13.7	17,033	455,600	30.6
Poultry	30,736	286,427	14.5	27,263	242,617	15.3	d	d	na	d	d	na
Dairy	140,201	152,805	4.4	120,997	122,499	4.6	14,758	294,795	10.8	*4,418	504,432	19.0
Other livestock	117,538	24,204	20.2	103,435	14,449	14.8	*10,985	49,790	44.2	d	d	na
Operator occupation:												
Farming	1,122,794	102,343	2.7	998,927	82,593	3.1	90,898	201,038	7.8	32,644	426,080	9.0
Hired farm manager	14,769	780,952	26.7	*6,904	90,760	56.1	d	d	na	6,636	1,544,216	28.1
Other occupation	953,137	14,324	6.2	900,370	12,050	5.8	35,521	30,865	16.5	16,248	98,279	35.5
Operator education:												
Less than high school	453,324	40,391	6.6	429,496	35,827	7.1	22,286	102,273	21.0	*1,506	412,130	31.1
High school	861,404	64,031	4.3	789,652	51,551	4.8	50,871	156,538	9.1	20,817	310,550	21.1
Some college	428,013	74,364	5.4	378,685	55,836	5.6	32,299	135,393	13.7	16,774	366,343	18.9
College	347,960	100,017	8.8	308,368	54,291	8.0	22,179	228,815	17.7	16,431	762,147	20.6
Operator age:												
Younger than 35 years	198,500	85,885	8.6	176,790	65,618	8.6	16,824	189,660	25.9	*4,887	461,824	38.6
35-44 years	409,650	92,288	6.2	361,045	65,825	5.7	34,173	166,166	10.7	14,329	558,491	24.3
45-54 years	498,479	69,835	5.5	458,891	49,808	5.1	24,563	137,194	14.9	13,993	593,146	18.6
55-64 years	476,079	63,918	6.6	436,065	48,900	6.0	26,950	168,776	11.5	12,872	351,897	35.1
65 years or older	507,991	39,376	8.3	473,411	30,489	9.7	25,125	115,536	23.0	9,447	282,008	25.0

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent.

d=Data insufficient for disclosure.

na=Not applicable.

¹This category includes cooperative farms which are not included in the farm organization categories.²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Appendix table 9—Selected characteristics of farms, by region, 1992¹

Item	All farms				Northeast				Lake States			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	23,988	145,200	165	5.4	58,058	221,000	263	4.6
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	16,866	135,377	125	7.2	40,981	211,670	194	5.9
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	7,624	67,029	114	7.3	19,691	98,507	200	7.3
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	514	16,295	32	21.0	2,620	33,971	77	17.4
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	654	15,986	41	21.0	4,723	99,080	48	19.9
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	d	d	d	na	3,056	36,902	83	27.3
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	519	14,477	36	18.8	1,667	75,561	22	20.6
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	7,942,814	136,257	58,293	5.8	15,782,748	206,529	76,419	5.6
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	4,976,410	79,098	62,915	6.9	8,726,371	122,868	71,023	6.5
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	2,403,475	81,882	29,353	12.1	5,355,898	108,806	49,224	12.3
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	130,185	26,940	4,832	11.4	711,060	113,729	6,252	8.3
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	432,744	58,487	7,399	16.4	989,418	135,002	7,329	10.9
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	6,863,359	145,200	47,268	5.2	12,447,510	220,262	56,512	5.4
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	1,079,455	145,200	7,434	17.2	3,335,238	221,000	15,092	11.1
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	1,408,594	145,200	9,701	13.5	3,095,469	221,000	14,007	13.5
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	69,769,506	145,093	480,860	6.8	85,001,090	221,000	384,620	7.0
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	5,207,913	142,021	36,670	8.6	12,129,906	217,795	55,694	7.5
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	64,561,593	145,200	444,639	7.2	72,871,184	221,000	329,734	8.0
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	1,120,966	97,459	11,502	7.4	2,289,215	142,139	16,105	9.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 9—Selected characteristics of farms, by region, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Corn Belt				Northern Plains				Appalachian			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm		Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm		Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	
			RSE of total ²				RSE of total ²				RSE of total ²	
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	123,215	433,000	285	3.6	171,773	191,000	899	5.7	45,577	303,000	150	4.9
Owned	67,291	394,635	171	4.6	103,822	170,213	610	7.6	32,178	290,660	111	5.7
Rented in	62,208	208,825	298	4.9	75,686	114,673	660	6.3	14,543	109,735	133	8.9
Rented out	6,354	67,109	95	14.4	7,760	32,372	240	14.8	1,144	35,761	32	20.0
Cropland removed from production	7,779	192,855	40	11.9	13,384	123,629	108	11.3	1,471	35,028	42	14.8
Conservation Reserve Program	4,950	56,675	87	16.9	8,227	37,225	221	17.2	883	14,733	60	22.6
Set-aside and other	2,828	158,569	18	14.0	5,157	108,638	47	8.8	589	21,474	27	15.3
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	26,344,882	418,269	62,986	3.6	15,162,227	185,670	81,662	4.8	7,811,488	283,595	27,544	6.8
Livestock sales	11,453,877	276,961	41,356	5.8	7,125,957	122,711	58,071	7.7	3,060,709	190,563	16,061	10.2
Crop sales	11,901,166	272,668	43,647	4.7	5,652,252	134,460	42,037	5.1	3,892,477	132,401	29,399	9.4
Govt. payments	1,386,267	211,162	6,565	5.4	1,299,558	131,208	9,905	5.4	154,506	50,548	3,057	10.4
Other farm-related income	1,603,572	208,139	7,704	10.9	1,084,461	129,671	8,363	14.0	703,796	94,038	7,484	21.1
Cash expenses	21,268,462	433,000	49,119	3.8	11,652,013	189,882	61,364	4.9	5,940,092	303,000	19,604	6.5
Net cash farm income	5,076,419	433,000	11,724	7.7	3,510,214	189,882	18,486	7.7	1,871,396	303,000	6,176	11.4
Net farm income	5,981,093	432,466	13,830	7.2	3,376,991	189,882	17,785	9.2	2,284,708	303,000	7,540	18.7
Farm assets	155,593,754	433,000	359,339	4.2	76,436,514	189,478	403,406	4.3	81,937,083	302,571	270,803	6.8
Liabilities	19,604,996	417,857	46,918	4.8	12,185,008	185,379	65,730	7.2	4,619,778	286,699	16,114	8.7
Equity	135,988,758	433,000	314,062	4.6	64,251,507	191,000	336,395	4.7	77,317,305	302,571	255,535	7.0
Capital investments	3,507,482	279,032	12,570	6.5	1,864,530	130,071	14,335	6.6	1,660,132	170,890	9,715	18.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 9—Selected characteristics of farms, by region, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Southeast				Delta States				Southern Plains			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	38,049	155,500	245	7.3	32,635	114,000	286	6.3	197,689	254,000	778	13.9
Owned	27,881	147,749	189	9.2	17,733	106,999	166	9.7	111,480	236,442	471	17.7
Rented in	11,219	54,731	205	9.4	16,514	48,694	339	7.6	95,135	115,941	821	18.4
Rented out	1,061	12,005	88	18.6	1,621	11,486	141	25.0	8,942	23,566	*379	30.3
Cropland removed from production	2,384	24,769	96	14.3	1,339	15,010	89	14.6	6,585	43,774	150	15.7
Conservation Reserve Program	1,237	13,686	90	20.9	545	*5,358	102	31.6	3,227	11,541	*280	29.6
Set-aside and other	1,147	13,843	83	17.2	794	9,992	80	11.5	3,358	37,299	90	10.7
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	8,438,833	135,879	62,105	11.1	5,933,351	101,856	58,252	7.1	11,220,362	239,886	46,774	8.9
Livestock sales	2,072,569	90,862	22,810	14.0	1,601,520	75,134	21,316	17.1	6,384,307	200,833	31,789	13.9
Crop sales	5,251,640	50,979	103,015	16.5	3,171,946	27,592	114,960	8.9	2,979,928	64,836	45,961	12.0
Govt. payments	250,420	30,944	8,093	10.4	483,029	21,451	22,517	8.1	878,466	56,745	15,481	8.6
Other farm-related income	864,203	35,497	24,346	17.1	676,857	29,760	22,744	16.8	977,661	65,685	14,884	17.4
Cash expenses	6,684,224	152,739	43,763	11.5	4,671,616	114,000	40,979	7.4	9,445,267	253,589	37,246	8.2
Net cash farm income	1,754,609	155,067	11,315	19.4	1,261,735	114,000	11,068	17.5	1,775,095	254,000	*6,989	35.1
Net farm income	2,208,562	155,500	14,203	15.5	1,246,632	114,000	10,935	18.9	2,554,378	254,000	*10,057	25.5
Farm assets	60,378,441	155,492	388,306	8.5	29,648,589	113,619	260,948	9.2	91,493,401	254,000	360,210	11.0
Liabilities	4,428,466	141,973	31,192	12.6	3,303,101	92,547	35,691	19.7	7,823,290	247,609	31,595	11.7
Equity	55,949,975	155,500	359,807	9.0	26,345,488	113,625	231,864	8.9	83,670,111	254,000	329,410	11.5
Capital investments	1,055,349	89,729	11,762	10.8	875,408	71,362	12,267	11.4	2,853,210	156,037	18,286	19.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 9—Selected characteristics of farms, by region, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Mountain				Pacific			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	174,792	117,487	1,488	7.9	53,332	156,500	341	9.2
Owned	127,319	104,974	1,213	10.3	26,729	139,519	192	10.4
Rented in	60,951	53,675	1,136	11.1	29,211	57,598	507	13.4
Rented out	14,384	10,755	*1,337	44.0	2,856	12,734	*224	28.6
Cropland removed from production	7,597	23,050	330	11.6	3,925	16,446	239	15.8
Conservation Reserve Program	5,193	10,787	481	15.9	1,577	4,099	385	20.6
Set-aside and other	2,404	16,201	148	15.0	2,348	13,995	168	22.1
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	9,110,408	110,510	82,440	5.6	20,219,060	139,222	145,229	9.0
Livestock sales	4,787,468	72,594	65,949	9.6	6,005,218	72,232	83,138	20.1
Crop sales	2,947,249	55,190	53,402	6.5	11,939,029	80,613	148,102	11.3
Govt. payments	538,130	36,281	14,832	7.6	445,458	25,416	17,527	7.6
Other farm-related income	837,562	53,205	15,742	8.9	1,829,355	53,181	34,399	12.0
Cash expenses	7,754,011	117,500	65,992	7.6	16,025,221	156,324	102,513	7.1
Net cash farm income	1,356,398	117,500	11,544	17.3	4,193,839	156,324	26,828	22.7
Net farm income	1,873,970	117,500	15,949	11.1	4,221,175	156,500	26,972	21.3
Farm assets	65,871,036	117,500	560,605	7.0	85,051,284	156,500	543,459	7.5
Liabilities	7,939,138	111,663	71,099	7.4	10,768,949	151,441	71,110	10.1
Equity	57,931,898	117,500	493,037	7.5	74,282,335	156,500	474,648	8.1
Capital investments	1,150,046	78,489	14,652	7.2	2,018,576	82,905	*24,348	33.3

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

^{*}=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. d=Data insufficient for disclosure. na=Not applicable.¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector.²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 10—Selected characteristics of farms, by organization, 1992¹

Item	All farms ²				Individual			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ³	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ³
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ⁴	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	702,692	1,906,188	369	4.4
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	427,694	1,779,945	240	5.4
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	302,767	825,833	367	6.1
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	28,981	234,456	124	10.7
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	39,086	517,085	76	5.9
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	23,546	169,927	139	8.9
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	15,540	408,885	38	5.8
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	86,399,780	1,776,520	48,634	2.7
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	40,972,380	1,195,519	34,272	4.4
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	33,930,049	898,938	37,745	3.6
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	4,714,768	612,506	7,697	3.1
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	6,782,583	761,064	8,912	5.2
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	69,948,187	1,901,281	36,790	2.4
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	16,451,593	1,904,475	8,638	6.9
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	20,182,924	1,904,549	10,597	5.8
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	641,629,895	1,903,754	337,034	2.7
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	68,330,188	1,817,664	37,592	3.1
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	573,299,707	1,905,397	300,882	2.9
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	15,103,434	1,168,222	12,929	6.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 10—Selected characteristics of farms, by organization, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Partnership				Corporation			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ³	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ³
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ⁴	117,496	127,635	921	9.5	98,376	55,529	1,772	11.7
Owned	69,670	110,019	633	13.8	74,732	47,009	1,590	14.3
Rented in	59,425	72,574	819	13.1	30,221	30,633	987	12.7
Rented out	11,621	12,065	r	53.7	6,645	9,491	*700	27.3
Cropland removed from production	6,402	48,169	133	14.7	4,291	24,085	178	15.4
Conservation Reserve Program	3,379	14,905	227	25.1	2,106	8,366	252	22.2
Set-aside and other	3,024	40,464	75	11.1	2,185	20,412	107	19.6
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	19,151,603	125,341	152,797	5.8	21,749,667	54,476	399,249	7.9
Livestock sales	8,237,564	77,528	106,253	8.9	6,616,553	30,735	215,280	10.0
Crop sales	8,391,479	75,092	111,750	8.1	12,885,116	34,102	377,844	11.8
Govt. payments	966,667	62,197	15,542	6.3	591,334	29,613	19,968	8.9
Other farm-related income	1,555,893	71,431	21,782	12.7	1,656,664	29,841	55,516	13.7
Cash expenses	14,694,980	127,355	115,386	5.2	17,299,810	55,524	311,574	8.0
Net cash farm income	4,456,623	127,635	34,917	11.2	4,449,857	55,529	80,136	15.7
Net farm income	4,703,439	127,635	36,851	11.5	3,257,126	55,529	58,657	21.8
Farm assets	81,064,791	127,635	635,131	5.5	77,353,970	55,529	1,393,049	8.7
Liabilities	10,597,164	123,919	85,517	8.2	9,053,279	52,066	173,882	10.8
Equity	70,467,627	127,635	552,104	5.8	68,300,691	55,529	1,230,010	9.2
Capital investments	1,903,142	91,030	20,907	8.8	1,351,920	37,741	35,821	9.2

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. r=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 50 percent.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²Includes cooperative farms which are not included in the farm organization categories. ³The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ⁴Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 11—Selected characteristics of farms, by tenure, 1992¹

Item	All farms				Full owner			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	256,664	1,161,280	221	7.9
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	286,185	1,161,280	246	7.4
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	0	0	0	na
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	30,003	183,950	163	21.8
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	20,743	224,957	92	10.3
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	16,716	123,178	136	12.1
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	4,027	127,016	32	12.6
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	32,601,756	1,059,215	30,779	5.5
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	15,916,122	676,607	23,523	8.7
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	12,069,594	426,274	28,314	8.6
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	1,493,571	276,445	5,403	7.0
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	3,122,469	369,478	8,451	8.7
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	27,151,122	1,156,483	23,477	4.5
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	5,450,634	1,159,554	4,701	16.2
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	8,754,419	1,159,628	7,549	10.5
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	390,011,673	1,159,750	336,289	3.6
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	29,590,364	1,105,112	26,776	5.7
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	360,421,309	1,161,280	310,366	3.7
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	6,394,557	606,004	10,552	12.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 11—Selected characteristics of farms, by tenure, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Part owner				Tenant			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	545,109	756,970	720	4.7	117,335	172,437	680	14.5
Owned	285,981	756,970	378	6.8	114	19,989	*6	37.7
Rented in	274,898	756,970	363	4.2	117,882	172,437	684	14.4
Rented out	16,570	67,841	244	18.0	681	4,262	*160	40.0
Cropland removed from production	24,885	297,475	84	5.8	4,214	67,193	63	11.4
Conservation Reserve Program	11,311	64,746	175	9.6	1,004	5,275	190	27.5
Set-aside and other	13,574	277,208	49	6.3	3,210	65,825	49	11.7
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	76,300,718	730,611	104,434	2.8	19,063,699	167,847	113,578	7.4
Livestock sales	34,044,980	526,579	64,653	4.1	6,233,304	100,669	61,919	11.8
Crop sales	32,940,489	466,665	70,587	4.2	10,484,976	116,487	90,010	10.7
Govt. payments	3,790,192	348,530	10,875	3.2	993,315	79,449	12,502	6.4
Other farm-related income	5,525,057	407,966	13,543	6.0	1,352,103	85,221	15,866	12.9
Cash expenses	59,908,447	756,563	79,185	2.6	15,692,208	172,450	90,996	7.9
Net cash farm income	16,392,271	756,970	21,655	6.2	3,371,491	172,450	19,551	13.4
Net farm income	15,661,053	756,970	20,689	6.8	3,836,100	172,450	22,245	11.7
Farm assets	381,164,040	756,970	503,539	3.0	30,004,985	171,533	174,923	6.1
Liabilities	53,071,109	746,951	71,050	3.4	5,349,072	142,921	37,427	6.8
Equity	328,092,931	756,970	433,429	3.3	24,655,914	171,645	143,644	6.7
Capital investments	10,301,688	578,977	17,793	6.3	1,698,670	113,131	15,015	8.3

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. na=Not applicable.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 12—Selected characteristics of farms, by acreage class, 1992¹

Item	All farms				49 or fewer acres				50-179 acres			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	12,452	580,116	21	4.6	64,552	630,898	102	3.7
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	19,279	551,949	35	10.2	56,936	594,859	96	4.2
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	3,312	112,762	*29	41.6	13,879	225,782	61	5.8
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	10,153	70,792	143	22.0	6,343	90,370	70	12.9
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	568	27,963	20	23.9	3,234	116,342	28	12.4
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	457	20,251	23	27.9	2,163	46,898	46	16.0
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	d	d	d	na	1,071	73,248	15	18.0
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	8,604,000	493,134	17,448	9.9	15,324,670	595,673	25,727	7.4
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	3,071,929	290,914	10,560	10.5	7,967,034	402,426	19,798	9.5
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	4,439,786	196,907	22,548	16.7	5,542,833	269,313	20,581	13.9
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	75,215	46,287	1,625	16.9	350,121	149,622	2,340	8.9
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	1,017,069	131,001	7,764	15.5	1,464,683	223,970	6,540	10.6
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	8,547,044	577,651	14,796	8.4	13,271,174	630,272	21,056	6.2
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	r	579,521	r	na	2,053,496	630,898	3,255	23.9
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	2,298,263	580,130	3,962	13.0	4,056,178	630,364	6,435	13.3
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	98,285,179	577,688	170,135	5.1	169,654,598	630,898	268,910	5.0
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	9,268,534	526,300	17,611	7.9	12,313,339	606,274	20,310	7.6
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	89,016,645	579,325	153,656	5.2	157,341,259	630,898	249,393	5.2
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	1,621,045	268,235	6,043	10.8	3,488,561	374,303	9,320	9.3

See footnotes at end of table

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Appendix table 12—Selected characteristics of farms, by acreage class, 1992—Continued¹

Item	180-499 acres				500-999 acres				1,000 or more acres			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	152,864	505,054	303	3.4	137,351	197,608	695	4.0	551,889	177,011	3,118	6.0
Owned	103,836	455,711	228	4.0	71,749	176,309	407	5.4	320,481	159,411	2,010	7.9
Rented in	56,590	293,402	193	5.0	68,688	156,652	438	4.9	250,312	140,810	1,778	8.0
Rented out	7,616	53,626	142	14.2	3,126	19,762	158	21.3	20,016	21,503	*931	33.0
Cropland removed from production	9,131	207,795	44	11.9	10,028	124,396	81	13.6	26,880	113,131	238	7.1
Conservation Reserve Program	5,961	57,123	104	16.7	6,329	28,423	223	20.7	14,121	40,503	349	11.4
Set-aside and other	3,171	173,505	18	8.9	3,699	113,429	33	7.0	12,759	101,273	126	7.6
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	29,658,791	497,269	59,643	3.5	26,366,330	194,774	135,369	4.9	48,012,382	176,823	271,528	4.8
Livestock sales	16,112,172	353,104	45,630	4.9	10,906,049	129,555	84,181	7.3	18,137,222	127,857	141,856	8.9
Crop sales	10,099,085	283,892	35,574	5.3	12,005,638	140,130	85,675	7.2	23,407,717	119,184	196,400	6.3
Govt. payments	1,311,575	246,573	5,319	5.7	1,563,211	136,362	11,464	5.7	2,976,957	125,580	23,706	4.2
Other farm-related income	2,135,959	258,062	8,277	9.7	1,891,433	128,544	14,714	10.9	3,490,486	121,089	28,826	8.0
Cash expenses	23,800,704	504,495	47,177	3.6	20,417,985	196,066	104,138	5.0	36,714,870	177,011	207,416	4.6
Net cash farm income	5,858,087	505,054	11,599	6.9	5,948,346	196,490	30,273	10.5	11,297,511	177,011	63,824	9.5
Net farm income	6,121,679	505,054	12,121	7.0	5,782,635	196,490	29,430	9.3	9,992,817	177,011	56,453	11.5
Farm assets	203,412,424	505,048	402,759	4.8	121,198,091	197,608	613,326	4.5	208,630,407	177,011	1,178,630	5.2
Liabilities	19,852,763	493,264	40,248	5.2	16,893,662	193,654	87,236	6.8	29,682,247	175,492	169,137	5.4
Equity	183,559,661	505,054	363,446	5.1	104,304,429	197,608	527,835	4.7	178,948,160	177,011	1,010,944	5.7
Capital investments	4,334,967	355,999	12,177	8.4	3,118,981	151,833	20,542	6.2	5,831,360	147,743	39,470	14.7

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*—The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. r=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 50 percent. d=Data insufficient for disclosure. na=Not applicable.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 13—Selected characteristics of farms, by sales class, 1992¹

Item	All farms				\$9,999 or less				\$10,000-\$49,999			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	111,294	1,003,400	111	11.4	186,030	529,687	351	5.0
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	99,352	964,983	103	13.5	130,657	486,782	268	5.9
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	22,772	238,482	95	17.7	66,641	269,612	247	7.2
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	10,951	132,042	83	21.7	11,688	72,586	161	15.9
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	5,896	117,820	50	12.9	12,933	167,383	77	12.2
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	4,704	82,009	57	14.8	9,825	49,396	199	15.4
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	1,193	41,434	29	19.7	3,108	139,530	22	10.8
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	3,625,025	883,536	4,103	4.6	13,143,025	519,064	25,321	3.5
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	1,843,978	586,710	3,143	5.6	6,080,677	346,419	17,553	4.8
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	767,120	284,695	2,695	6.3	4,976,006	318,518	15,622	4.7
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	330,892	147,172	2,248	11.0	1,011,838	208,469	4,854	7.3
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	683,035	231,355	2,952	13.3	1,074,504	234,719	4,578	11.7
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	6,957,107	999,665	6,959	4.8	12,130,054	528,217	22,964	3.9
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	-3,332,082	1,002,791	-3,323	nc	1,012,971	528,569	1,916	25.1
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	1,075,051	1,002,866	*1,072	30.1	2,306,541	528,569	4,364	11.6
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	197,509,846	1,000,967	197,319	4.9	183,683,499	529,678	346,783	5.0
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	11,268,281	929,858	12,118	6.8	13,179,015	512,122	25,734	7.0
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	186,241,565	1,002,595	185,759	5.0	170,504,484	529,687	321,897	5.3
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	2,795,728	488,988	5,717	10.4	3,168,203	350,224	9,046	6.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 13—Selected characteristics of farms, by sales class, 1992—Continued¹

Item	\$50,000-\$99,999				\$100,000-\$249,999			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	169,225	231,600	731	11.6	244,036	217,500	1,122	10.2
Owned	107,205	205,557	522	13.7	126,840	183,214	692	14.7
Rented in	72,016	162,936	442	10.8	123,747	172,304	718	12.9
Rented out	10,690	22,524	r	56.5	6,566	16,017	*410	27.9
Cropland removed from production	10,204	116,815	87	13.0	11,797	123,267	96	10.3
Conservation Reserve Program	6,777	26,044	260	18.3	5,072	23,861	213	18.4
Set-aside and other	3,427	107,675	32	9.3	6,725	119,212	56	9.5
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	16,514,958	230,078	71,780	4.3	32,669,155	217,018	150,537	3.6
Livestock sales	7,466,107	163,285	45,724	6.1	14,922,745	141,802	105,237	5.2
Crop sales	6,772,764	165,327	40,966	5.8	13,581,620	160,343	84,703	4.8
Govt. payments	1,101,066	134,005	8,217	7.5	1,989,140	143,731	13,839	5.3
Other farm-related income	1,175,021	154,223	7,619	11.4	2,175,650	156,162	13,932	9.9
Cash expenses	12,811,431	231,613	55,314	4.6	24,525,467	217,500	112,761	3.8
Net cash farm income	3,703,527	231,613	15,990	9.0	8,143,688	217,500	37,442	5.3
Net farm income	3,775,365	231,613	16,300	10.0	7,888,551	217,500	36,269	6.3
Farm assets	110,919,174	231,607	478,910	5.1	145,023,845	217,500	666,776	5.0
Liabilities	13,024,430	229,323	56,795	8.2	22,069,533	215,502	102,410	5.8
Equity	97,894,744	231,613	422,664	5.2	122,954,312	217,500	565,307	5.5
Capital investments	2,767,665	179,589	15,411	12.8	4,046,555	185,579	21,805	6.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 13—Selected characteristics of farms, by sales class, 1992—Continued¹

Item	\$250,000-\$499,999				\$500,000 or more			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	108,470	67,500	1,607	9.9	100,054	41,000	2,440	10.2
Owned	55,318	61,033	906	13.2	52,908	36,669	1,443	13.2
Rented in	57,486	55,572	1,034	11.2	50,118	30,500	1,643	12.8
Rented out	4,363	7,282	*599	34.6	2,997	5,602	*535	26.4
Cropland removed from production	5,826	44,549	131	13.2	3,186	19,792	161	9.2
Conservation Reserve Program	1,688	8,281	204	21.3	965	3,606	268	17.9
Set-aside and other	4,138	42,883	96	15.7	2,221	19,314	115	9.4
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	19,787,862	66,977	295,443	5.1	42,226,149	41,000	1,029,906	6.1
Livestock sales	7,964,660	43,777	181,935	7.8	17,916,239	21,862	819,527	9.9
Crop sales	9,269,387	52,595	176,242	6.6	20,128,162	27,948	720,205	8.9
Govt. payments	1,024,082	48,595	21,074	6.3	820,061	22,452	36,525	6.0
Other farm-related income	1,529,733	54,853	27,888	10.1	3,361,687	31,354	107,219	9.5
Cash expenses	15,029,166	67,500	222,654	5.1	31,298,553	41,000	763,379	5.9
Net cash farm income	4,758,696	67,500	70,499	8.3	10,927,596	41,000	266,527	11.0
Net farm income	4,047,828	67,500	59,968	10.2	9,158,237	41,000	223,372	13.0
Farm assets	74,948,208	67,500	1,110,344	8.5	89,096,126	41,000	2,173,076	6.4
Liabilities	11,875,926	67,213	176,691	7.2	16,593,359	40,966	405,049	7.3
Equity	63,072,282	67,500	934,404	9.7	72,502,767	41,000	1,768,360	7.2
Capital investments	2,015,804	58,246	34,608	6.8	3,600,961	35,486	101,475	23.3

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. r=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 50 percent. nc=Not computed.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 14—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm type, 1992¹

Item	All farms				Cash grains				Tobacco			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	232,209	390,607	594	3.0	13,586	90,515	150	10.5
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	111,637	335,833	332	4.8	8,995	86,216	104	12.6
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	131,191	262,348	500	3.4	4,754	42,795	111	16.3
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	10,647	55,128	193	12.0	163	11,387	14	28.2
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	19,178	263,737	73	6.6	634	13,967	45	23.5
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	9,031	50,603	178	11.2	d	d	d	na
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	10,147	249,388	41	6.3	367	10,150	36	21.8
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	30,770,186	383,942	80,143	3.0	2,934,884	89,378	32,837	10.5
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	3,085,861	148,963	20,716	6.0	252,263	32,751	7,702	16.4
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	21,897,872	368,519	59,421	3.3	2,502,318	83,501	29,967	11.1
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	3,099,256	284,678	10,887	3.5	50,501	18,278	2,763	17.6
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	2,687,196	247,017	10,879	7.2	129,802	24,070	*5,393	32.5
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	24,247,452	389,864	62,195	3.2	2,059,398	90,515	22,752	9.8
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	6,522,734	390,607	16,699	6.1	875,486	90,515	9,672	16.1
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	6,775,510	390,607	17,346	6.6	1,128,870	90,515	12,472	13.2
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	176,701,936	390,601	452,385	4.0	19,568,659	90,086	217,221	9.9
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	24,831,310	374,760	66,259	4.8	1,651,567	86,362	19,124	15.0
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	151,870,625	390,607	388,807	4.3	17,917,091	90,086	198,888	10.2
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	4,164,357	261,865	15,903	5.7	481,871	57,907	8,321	13.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 14—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm type, 1992¹—Continued

Item	Cotton				Other field crops				Vegetables, fruits, or nuts			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	23,531	23,040	1,021	13.2	54,687	220,656	248	8.2	13,620	97,371	140	8.8
Owned	7,800	18,364	425	18.1	41,918	210,937	199	8.9	10,180	92,159	110	9.8
Rented in	16,590	19,068	870	14.8	17,806	62,215	286	17.4	4,395	28,261	156	15.0
Rented out	867	*2,320	*374	42.8	5,045	42,588	118	19.2	1,201	11,942	*101	28.1
Cropland removed from production	2,082	20,720	101	14.6	12,878	99,220	130	13.7	614	8,250	74	26.3
Conservation Reserve Program	d	d	d	na	11,285	81,082	139	15.1	d	d	d	na
Set-aside and other	1,736	20,552	84	13.4	1,593	26,020	61	21.4	343	5,500	62	23.2
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	6,008,969	23,040	260,808	13.2	7,984,232	204,030	39,133	6.5	13,320,424	92,089	144,647	11.8
Livestock sales	726,424	8,658	r	71.0	461,864	32,406	14,252	18.3	130,822	10,249	*12,764	30.8
Crop sales	4,089,920	20,774	196,875	12.0	5,759,083	120,968	47,608	7.8	11,820,475	84,987	139,086	13.1
Govt. payments	658,361	21,053	31,271	10.0	714,808	105,763	6,759	10.1	170,608	16,523	10,326	14.4
Other farm-related income	534,265	14,388	*37,133	26.8	1,048,478	81,426	12,877	8.6	1,198,519	39,451	30,380	15.0
Cash expenses	4,849,806	23,040	210,497	15.2	6,674,678	217,557	30,680	5.9	10,559,576	96,848	109,033	11.5
Net cash farm income	1,159,163	23,040	*50,311	25.2	1,309,554	219,538	5,965	16.2	2,760,848	97,195	*28,405	24.4
Net farm income	994,307	23,040	*43,156	26.0	2,190,702	219,538	9,979	11.4	2,371,444	97,371	*24,355	24.8
Farm assets	14,943,695	23,040	648,603	15.4	67,129,168	220,656	304,225	7.6	59,007,787	97,371	606,012	10.9
Liabilities	3,507,225	22,655	154,813	23.0	6,276,995	207,364	30,270	9.1	6,263,422	94,612	66,201	13.5
Equity	11,436,470	23,040	496,378	14.8	60,852,173	220,656	275,778	8.2	52,744,365	97,371	541,687	11.9
Capital investments	708,213	14,559	*48,646	41.1	978,704	90,946	10,761	12.1	741,440	50,735	14,614	13.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 14—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm type, 1992¹—Continued

Item	Nursery or greenhouse				Beef, hogs, or sheep				Poultry			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	3,628	58,333	*62	27.2	498,830	921,689	541	6.6	4,391	30,736	143	22.9
Owned	3,465	56,016	*62	26.8	340,920	872,655	391	7.5	3,372	29,987	112	20.7
Rented in	339	7,096	*48	50.6	185,381	370,343	501	10.3	1,305	7,010	*186	37.5
Rented out	d	d	d	na	27,747	102,661	*270	25.0	286	*4,246	*67	43.4
Cropland removed from production	d	d	d	na	12,430	136,085	91	10.9	174	*2,335	74	43.5
Conservation Reserve Program	d	d	d	na	7,065	43,887	161	16.3	d	d	d	na
Set-aside and other	d	d	d	na	5,365	115,699	46	12.1	94	*1,187	*79	67.3
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	4,737,375	51,198	92,530	17.7	35,416,319	849,421	41,695	5.2	2,403,434	27,368	87,820	13.7
Livestock sales	d	d	d	na	28,400,959	823,181	34,501	6.0	1,076,823	17,585	*61,236	23.5
Crop sales	4,613,573	48,923	94,304	17.9	3,770,150	207,959	18,129	5.9	62,808	5,356	11,728	22.4
Govt. payments	d	d	d	na	1,205,888	184,637	6,531	6.6	16,436	*3,119	*5,269	38.6
Other farm-related income	108,076	9,800	*11,028	37.9	2,039,322	295,396	6,904	10.7	1,247,366	21,462	58,120	15.1
Cash expenses	3,418,810	58,333	58,608	17.3	29,619,303	920,863	32,165	4.3	1,891,743	30,736	61,547	14.2
Net cash farm income	1,318,564	58,333	22,604	22.8	5,797,016	921,270	6,292	16.7	511,691	30,736	*16,648	28.5
Net farm income	1,495,566	58,333	25,638	19.4	8,098,368	921,168	8,791	12.2	401,363	30,736	*13,058	36.7
Farm assets	20,213,008	58,227	347,144	14.1	310,177,805	919,797	337,224	4.2	12,672,982	30,736	412,312	13.5
Liabilities	1,712,917	54,030	31,703	18.8	26,797,711	875,241	30,618	5.3	2,372,292	28,119	84,366	17.8
Equity	18,500,091	58,333	317,145	14.5	283,380,094	921,327	307,578	4.3	10,300,690	30,736	335,130	14.7
Capital investments	428,837	24,935	*17,198	30.8	7,282,152	581,090	12,532	12.1	356,884	24,785	*14,399	25.4

See footnotes at end of table

.Continued—

Appendix table 14—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm type, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Dairy				Other livestock			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	47,613	140,201	340	5.7	27,013	117,538	230	17.9
Owned	29,550	125,067	236	6.4	14,444	111,004	130	13.5
Rented in	18,471	97,934	189	8.1	12,550	32,338	*388	30.5
Rented out	485	*6,987	69	28.8	640	11,478	*56	30.1
Cropland removed from production	897	39,810	23	19.6	802	*4,420	*182	42.7
Conservation Reserve Program	263	*4,483	*59	58.3	d	d	d	na
Set-aside and other	634	37,002	17	13.6	449	*3,572	r	69.9
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	21,496,053	139,716	153,856	4.6	2,894,297	97,491	29,688	15.4
Livestock sales	19,921,001	138,566	143,766	4.6	2,132,804	89,426	23,850	15.9
Crop sales	798,645	52,635	15,173	10.8	180,215	15,805	*11,403	24.3
Govt. payments	296,129	60,687	4,880	10.7	54,951	6,612	8,311	29.0
Other farm-related income	480,278	91,670	5,239	13.1	526,328	37,985	*13,856	28.3
Cash expenses	15,827,762	140,201	112,893	4.6	3,603,248	117,538	30,656	11.6
Net cash farm income	5,668,291	140,201	40,430	6.4	-708,951	117,538	-6,032	nc
Net farm income	5,293,200	140,201	37,754	7.4	-497,758	117,538	-4,235	nc
Farm assets	79,012,944	140,201	563,568	4.7	41,752,714	117,538	355,228	16.0
Liabilities	11,425,025	139,336	81,996	7.4	3,172,079	112,505	28,195	12.5
Equity	67,587,919	140,201	482,078	5.0	38,580,636	117,538	328,240	17.0
Capital investments	2,592,311	123,399	21,007	7.6	660,147	67,891	9,724	19.1

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. r=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 50 percent. d=Data insufficient for disclosure. na=Not applicable. nc=Not computed.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 15—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator occupation, 1992¹

Item	All farms				Farming			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	720,799	1,122,794	642	4.1
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	408,332	1,022,093	400	4.6
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	336,723	617,113	546	5.9
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	25,408	134,586	189	9.9
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	36,582	424,286	86	5.6
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	18,483	106,581	173	9.4
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	18,099	377,541	48	5.5
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	107,287,233	1,097,905	97,720	2.3
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	48,556,738	746,999	65,002	3.9
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	45,277,888	662,328	68,362	3.2
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	5,379,120	509,354	10,561	2.7
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	8,073,486	603,804	13,371	4.9
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	81,861,848	1,122,366	72,937	2.1
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	25,425,385	1,122,794	22,645	4.8
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	25,470,038	1,122,794	22,685	5.0
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	547,262,280	1,122,304	487,624	2.3
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	65,128,604	1,086,538	59,941	3.2
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	482,133,676	1,122,419	429,549	2.5
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	13,760,393	771,053	17,846	6.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 15—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator occupation, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Hired farm manager				Other occupation			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	28,690	14,769	1,943	21.4	169,620	953,123	178	11.3
Owned	27,327	13,130	*2,081	28.9	136,622	903,015	151	14.4
Rented in	8,504	6,279	*1,354	27.4	47,554	306,015	155	8.1
Rented out	7,147	*2,799	r	83.4	14,699	118,669	124	21.5
Cropland removed from production	723	*6,164	*117	25.8	12,536	159,176	79	12.6
Conservation Reserve Program	d	d	d	na	10,266	85,473	120	14.7
Set-aside and other	442	*5,588	79	28.2	2,270	86,920	26	13.6
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	8,835,356	14,748	599,079	17.5	11,843,584	845,020	14,016	5.3
Livestock sales	2,375,761	*8,781	*270,543	24.2	5,261,908	548,074	9,601	7.4
Crop sales	5,679,222	10,905	*520,786	24.1	4,537,948	336,193	13,498	9.1
Govt. payments	88,830	*7,233	*12,281	20.8	809,128	187,837	4,308	8.8
Other farm-related income	691,543	8,267	*83,648	28.5	1,234,601	250,594	4,927	10.9
Cash expenses	6,918,584	14,769	468,440	18.4	13,971,344	948,360	14,732	4.9
Net cash farm income	1,916,772	14,769	*129,780	30.9	-2,127,760	951,410	-2,236	nc
Net farm income	1,118,006	14,769	r	52.2	1,663,528	951,484	1,748	23.2
Farm assets	27,812,461	14,769	1,883,114	17.3	226,105,957	951,179	237,711	5.6
Liabilities	2,704,695	14,108	191,708	18.0	20,177,246	894,337	22,561	6.2
Equity	25,107,766	14,769	1,699,986	18.2	205,928,712	952,707	216,151	5.8
Capital investments	311,703	8,879	35,106	22.4	4,322,819	518,180	8,342	8.6

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. r=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 50 percent. d=Data insufficient for disclosure. na=Not applicable. nc=Not computed.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 16—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator education, 1992¹

Item	All farms				Less than high school				High school			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	136,012	453,324	300	7.9	343,057	861,391	398	6.0
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	96,112	435,110	221	8.1	196,314	792,052	248	5.5
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	46,164	158,211	292	14.7	160,373	413,860	388	10.2
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	6,501	60,818	107	14.3	13,901	98,360	141	14.7
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	9,126	92,581	99	16.7	16,786	251,718	67	8.2
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	6,755	38,785	174	21.4	9,210	74,029	124	12.3
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	2,370	63,673	37	13.9	7,577	203,407	37	9.4
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	15,834,110	422,983	37,434	6.4	50,559,692	799,669	63,226	4.1
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	8,890,741	291,579	30,492	9.4	25,439,911	554,645	45,867	6.3
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	4,644,524	193,977	23,944	6.9	19,605,833	414,645	47,283	5.9
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	767,290	113,248	6,775	8.6	2,324,786	302,820	7,677	4.2
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	1,531,556	176,503	8,677	13.6	3,189,162	354,962	8,985	6.9
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	12,497,824	451,010	27,711	6.8	39,734,792	858,972	46,259	3.6
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	3,336,286	452,206	7,378	10.2	10,824,900	860,971	12,573	9.0
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	4,195,559	452,206	9,278	9.0	12,647,181	860,869	14,691	8.2
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	132,507,629	453,324	292,303	4.9	298,276,390	858,962	347,252	2.9
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	9,928,781	432,265	22,969	9.0	32,935,887	816,475	40,339	4.5
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	122,578,848	453,324	270,400	5.1	265,340,503	860,599	308,321	3.0
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	2,577,591	253,899	10,152	7.8	7,836,203	538,799	14,544	11.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 16—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator education, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Some college				College			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	250,050	428,013	584	10.0	189,988	347,960	546	8.3
Owned	152,428	388,714	392	13.8	127,426	322,364	395	12.4
Rented in	111,414	207,651	537	8.7	74,829	149,684	500	7.2
Rented out	14,515	48,738	*298	42.9	12,337	48,137	256	23.2
Cropland removed from production	12,838	141,441	91	9.2	11,091	103,886	107	11.0
Conservation Reserve Program	6,694	43,879	153	14.3	6,371	36,506	175	16.8
Set-aside and other	6,144	117,832	52	9.7	4,720	85,137	55	9.0
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	29,521,148	402,776	73,294	4.5	32,051,222	332,245	96,469	5.8
Livestock sales	11,675,389	243,498	47,949	7.0	10,188,365	214,133	47,580	7.9
Crop sales	13,592,397	225,299	60,331	6.2	17,652,305	175,505	100,580	8.7
Govt. payments	1,747,477	165,707	10,546	5.6	1,437,525	122,650	11,721	6.3
Other farm-related income	2,505,885	178,003	14,078	8.1	2,773,027	153,197	18,101	10.6
Cash expenses	24,218,882	427,734	56,621	4.4	26,300,279	347,779	75,623	5.4
Net cash farm income	5,302,267	428,013	12,388	8.8	5,750,943	347,784	16,536	15.3
Net farm income	5,675,874	428,013	13,261	8.8	5,732,958	347,960	16,476	15.1
Farm assets	181,637,735	428,013	424,374	5.3	188,758,944	347,954	542,483	6.3
Liabilities	23,241,917	409,641	56,737	5.5	21,903,959	336,603	65,074	6.4
Equity	158,395,818	428,013	370,073	5.8	166,854,985	347,960	479,524	6.7
Capital investments	3,725,521	277,504	13,425	6.2	4,255,600	227,910	18,672	9.0

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector.

²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 17—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator age, 1992¹

Item	All farms				Younger than 35 years				35-44 years			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	919,108	2,090,687	440	3.6	88,860	198,500	448	12.4	182,026	409,650	444	6.0
Owned	572,281	1,938,239	295	4.5	41,061	151,448	271	20.1	86,334	366,362	236	9.8
Rented in	392,780	929,407	423	5.1	49,892	126,058	396	10.9	99,476	235,858	422	6.2
Rented out	47,255	256,053	185	15.1	2,166	14,060	r	63.0	3,824	36,267	105	16.5
Cropland removed from production	49,841	589,626	85	5.1	3,592	57,251	63	17.0	9,431	129,194	73	10.2
Conservation Reserve Program	29,030	193,198	150	7.9	976	10,468	93	21.1	4,190	35,818	117	19.2
Set-aside and other	20,811	470,048	44	5.0	2,617	52,165	50	21.8	5,242	111,287	47	7.4
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	127,966,173	1,957,673	65,366	2.3	15,733,755	187,841	83,761	8.7	34,157,212	389,099	87,785	4.8
Livestock sales	56,194,406	1,303,855	43,099	3.5	6,627,825	130,927	50,622	12.2	14,603,747	252,388	57,862	6.9
Crop sales	55,495,059	1,009,426	54,977	3.5	7,475,098	108,912	68,635	12.9	15,393,516	217,741	70,696	7.3
Govt. payments	6,277,078	704,424	8,911	2.5	638,109	67,212	9,494	8.9	1,513,596	157,588	9,605	5.7
Other farm-related income	9,999,629	862,665	11,592	4.6	992,723	85,760	11,576	14.3	2,646,352	191,312	13,833	9.6
Cash expenses	102,751,777	2,085,496	49,270	2.1	11,997,522	197,762	60,666	7.8	27,544,946	409,646	67,241	4.7
Net cash farm income	25,214,396	2,088,974	12,070	5.5	3,736,233	198,500	18,822	17.8	6,612,266	409,650	16,141	10.9
Net farm income	28,251,572	2,089,048	13,524	5.2	4,093,312	198,500	20,621	15.4	6,870,672	409,650	16,772	11.6
Farm assets	801,180,698	2,088,252	383,661	2.3	57,702,567	197,964	291,480	9.0	151,682,975	409,644	370,280	4.8
Liabilities	88,010,544	1,994,984	44,116	2.8	10,542,979	186,285	56,596	8.4	25,007,093	393,060	63,622	4.9
Equity	713,170,154	2,089,895	341,247	2.5	47,159,588	198,071	238,094	10.3	126,675,882	409,650	309,229	5.3
Capital investments	18,394,915	1,298,112	14,171	5.5	2,018,617	139,348	14,486	8.9	5,286,529	293,972	17,983	11.0

See footnotes at end of table

.Continued—

Appendix table 17—Selected characteristics of farms, by operator age, 1992—Continued¹

Item	45-54 years				55-64 years				65 years or older			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	218,403	498,479	438	8.2	221,910	476,079	466	7.7	207,909	507,978	409	11.2
Owned	126,811	467,559	271	8.0	144,466	455,708	317	10.6	173,610	497,162	349	11.2
Rented in	103,194	227,099	454	14.7	90,010	204,599	440	10.3	50,208	135,793	370	15.0
Rented out	12,317	50,841	*242	48.9	12,847	57,717	223	23.7	16,100	97,168	166	12.6
Cropland removed from production	11,472	129,006	89	9.5	13,044	144,755	90	10.1	12,302	129,420	95	13.7
Conservation Reserve Program	6,300	40,482	156	13.9	8,161	51,765	158	13.9	9,404	54,666	172	17.2
Set-aside and other	5,171	107,088	48	11.2	4,883	112,959	43	10.1	2,898	86,550	33	11.2
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	32,184,222	456,691	70,473	4.8	27,140,545	440,012	61,681	4.7	18,750,438	484,031	38,738	7.7
Livestock sales	12,420,121	311,156	39,916	6.2	12,978,594	295,637	43,900	7.0	9,564,120	313,747	30,484	13.3
Crop sales	15,676,521	234,267	66,917	7.8	10,336,903	223,561	46,238	6.8	6,613,020	224,946	29,398	7.8
Govt. payments	1,546,706	150,593	10,271	5.4	1,511,241	169,654	8,908	5.9	1,067,425	159,377	6,697	7.7
Other farm-related income	2,540,874	191,497	13,268	8.4	2,313,807	191,330	12,093	9.9	1,505,873	202,766	7,427	12.2
Cash expenses	27,301,150	497,776	54,846	4.9	21,985,752	476,079	46,181	4.6	13,922,406	504,232	27,611	5.9
Net cash farm income	4,883,072	498,479	9,796	11.0	5,154,793	476,079	10,828	10.2	4,828,032	506,265	9,537	15.3
Net farm income	5,639,443	497,945	11,325	9.8	5,970,119	476,079	12,540	9.2	5,678,025	506,873	11,202	13.1
Farm assets	201,183,276	496,582	405,136	5.2	196,733,294	476,071	413,244	3.9	193,878,585	507,991	381,657	4.8
Liabilities	25,225,662	480,799	52,466	5.5	18,585,398	456,308	40,730	6.3	8,649,413	478,531	18,075	11.7
Equity	175,957,615	498,104	353,255	5.6	178,147,896	476,079	374,198	4.0	185,229,172	507,991	364,631	4.8
Capital investments	5,062,262	323,629	15,642	8.6	3,378,099	290,395	11,633	6.0	2,649,408	250,769	*10,565	25.4

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. r=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 50 percent.

¹Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix table 18—Farm size, by farm operator household dependency category and region, 1992¹

Household dependency category	All operator households			Northeast			Lake States			Corn Belt		
	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All operator households	2,071,948	430	3.9	144,442	164	5.5	219,296	264	4.7	429,776	283	3.9
Positive household income:												
Loss from farming	955,648	199	7.0	72,430	110	13.2	88,050	146	9.5	171,005	155	8.1
0-24 percent from farming	406,045	275	15.7	19,991	108	13.5	35,038	169	10.5	89,795	164	8.6
25-49 percent from farming	167,480	623	17.4	8,452	209	12.0	16,524	245	14.9	47,504	345	9.9
50-74 percent from farming	131,998	667	8.8	10,117	274	10.6	15,027	472	10.8	38,321	452	6.9
75 percent and more from farming	277,896	1,077	6.9	18,223	292	8.5	49,947	411	7.6	56,169	617	6.7
Negative household income	132,881	740	7.7	15,229	246	11.6	14,710	503	17.0	26,983	457	10.3
	Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)		
All operator households	2,071,948	61,177	2.8	144,442	55,798	7.0	219,296	68,365	6.8	429,776	66,446	4.3
Positive household income:												
Loss from farming	955,648	15,533	6.9	72,430	11,333	14.0	88,050	17,990	14.0	171,005	22,336	14.4
0-24 percent from farming	406,045	23,435	5.6	19,991	22,552	21.4	35,038	22,311	18.9	89,795	29,266	10.5
25-49 percent from farming	167,480	81,324	7.5	8,452	99,708	15.4	16,524	54,489	12.6	47,504	73,724	10.0
50-74 percent from farming	131,998	131,854	5.6	10,117	170,771	14.6	15,027	116,615	12.7	38,321	122,494	7.1
75 percent and more from farming	277,896	209,556	3.8	18,223	178,822	7.7	49,947	172,715	9.1	56,169	193,604	6.2
Negative household income	132,881	98,862	6.6	15,229	62,958	25.5	14,710	91,582	16.9	26,983	112,617	12.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 18—Farm size, by farm operator household dependency category and region, 1992—Continued¹

Household dependency category	Northern Plains			Appalachian			Southeast			Delta States		
	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All operator households	189,783	877	6.7	302,267	150	4.9	153,174	236	7.6	113,379	276	8.3
Positive household income:												
Loss from farming	57,510	345	15.2	135,529	109	7.9	79,619	118	9.2	57,447	146	10.8
0-24 percent from farming	25,811	443	17.1	100,461	107	8.6	30,120	187	14.0	23,549	132	15.6
25-49 percent from farming	27,149	753	13.6	19,312	200	13.2	10,072	356	21.2	5,651	382	14.7
50-74 percent from farming	18,139	979	10.5	13,435	253	12.1	7,924	764	26.4	*4,710	488	12.6
75 percent and more from farming	46,933	1,640	8.8	25,446	382	11.6	14,649	439	13.0	12,317	820	10.6
Negative household income	14,241	1,408	20.2	8,084	332	27.9	10,790	465	19.7	9,705	537	20.6
		Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)	
All operator households	189,783	81,261	6.3	302,267	30,449	8.4	153,174	52,576	11.1	113,379	65,092	9.2
Positive household income:												
Loss from farming	57,510	32,332	18.1	135,529	7,501	12.6	79,619	8,406	15.8	57,447	12,743	25.9
0-24 percent from farming	25,811	36,003	18.9	100,461	11,983	9.7	30,120	21,708	20.6	23,549	18,901	27.7
25-49 percent from farming	27,149	73,614	19.8	19,312	53,723	36.9	10,072	179,883	31.7	5,651	121,219	21.1
50-74 percent from farming	18,139	116,634	17.2	13,435	75,211	13.8	7,924	149,289	21.7	*4,710	212,117	32.7
75 percent and more from farming	46,933	147,087	6.6	25,446	167,589	11.7	14,649	198,585	16.1	12,317	305,121	12.8
Negative household income	14,241	113,473	15.9	8,084	82,985	23.4	10,790	76,586	24.0	9,705	78,382	24.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 18—Farm size, by farm operator household dependency category and region, 1992—Continued¹

Household dependency category	Southern Plains			Mountain			Pacific		
	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All operator households	251,592	774	16.3	114,632	1,419	10.3	153,607	338	11.1
Positive household income:									
Loss from farming	157,276	356	21.7	51,860	406	15.3	84,922	158	20.6
0-24 percent from farming	42,900	841	46.7	16,124	945	39.4	22,256	298	47.4
25-49 percent from farming	13,743	2,173	56.2	9,263	1,974	27.2	*9,811	392	32.4
50-74 percent from farming	8,939	1,346	44.2	6,051	2,306	30.3	9,334	575	24.8
75 percent and more from farming	15,241	3,146	28.0	20,227	3,533	14.0	18,745	861	16.0
Negative household income	13,494	948	17.0	11,107	2,037	20.5	8,539	751	21.2
		Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)	
All operator households	251,592	43,848	12.9	114,632	67,311	8.3	153,607	106,380	12.0
Positive household income:									
Loss from farming	157,276	15,475	25.1	51,860	13,575	13.4	84,922	14,187	30.4
0-24 percent from farming	42,900	26,910	18.9	16,124	30,412	23.1	22,256	34,969	22.9
25-49 percent from farming	13,743	61,837	14.2	9,263	62,495	17.8	*9,811	144,059	31.3
50-74 percent from farming	8,939	164,917	28.0	6,051	106,353	12.5	9,334	193,295	24.8
75 percent and more farming	15,241	250,495	15.8	20,227	211,823	9.4	18,745	508,819	16.9
Negative household income	13,494	96,463	36.5	11,107	91,340	18.3	8,539	187,645	19.0

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*=The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent.

¹The farm operator household population described in this table differs slightly from the farm operator population. See text for more information.

²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller relative standard error indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Appendix table 19—Farm size, by farm operator household dependency category and farm organization, 1992¹

Household dependency category	All operator households			Individual			Partnership			Corporation		
	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²	Expanded count	Mean	RSE of mean ²
	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent	Farms	Acres	Percent
All operator households	2,071,948	430	3.9	1,899,560	366	4.6	126,513	917	9.7	45,875	1,754	14.8
Positive household income:												
Loss from farming	955,648	199	7.0	903,753	187	7.6	40,207	421	19.1	*11,688	331	25.4
0-24 percent from farming	406,045	275	15.7	381,115	230	18.6	21,831	848	30.4	*3,099	1,731	58.6
25-49 percent from farming	167,480	623	17.4	148,199	581	20.7	13,679	751	15.5	*5,602	1,396	40.4
50-74 percent from farming	131,998	667	8.8	117,767	532	6.1	10,095	1,600	32.2	*4,136	2,240	51.0
75 percent and more from farming	277,896	1,077	6.9	235,259	896	8.4	27,989	1,560	14.8	14,649	3,059	20.2
Negative household income	132,881	740	7.7	113,467	691	9.2	12,712	829	11.6	6,702	1,397	16.5
		Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)			Sales (dollars)	
All operator households	2,071,948	61,177	2.8	1,899,560	49,149	3.1	126,513	153,753	7.3	45,875	303,948	10.3
Positive household income:												
Loss from farming	955,648	15,533	6.9	903,753	14,035	7.5	40,207	36,696	21.0	*11,688	58,596	28.5
0-24 percent from farming	406,045	23,435	5.6	381,115	19,792	5.7	21,831	63,124	15.9	*3,099	191,828	33.1
25-49 percent from farming	167,480	81,324	7.5	148,199	64,831	6.9	13,679	178,749	24.8	*5,602	279,739	37.8
50-74 percent from farming	131,998	131,854	5.6	117,767	115,897	6.2	10,095	246,496	16.9	*4,136	306,378	30.5
75 percent and more from farming	277,896	209,556	3.8	235,259	174,029	4.6	27,989	344,682	9.8	14,649	521,926	10.4
Negative household income	132,881	98,862	6.6	113,467	78,744	6.7	12,712	158,706	14.3	6,702	325,971	26.3

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent.

¹The farm operator household population described in this table differs slightly from the farm operator population. See text for more information.²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller relative standard error indicates greater reliability of the estimate.

Appendix table 20—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm operator household dependency category, 1992¹

Item	All operator households				Positive household income/ loss from farming				Positive household income/ 0-24 percent from farming			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	891,705	2,071,935	430	3.7	190,159	955,648	199	7.2	111,705	406,045	275	15.8
Owned	546,161	1,922,159	284	4.6	128,931	908,782	142	10.6	78,094	381,590	205	21.1
Rented in	384,317	921,474	417	5.2	71,159	336,596	211	7.9	38,977	139,411	280	15.3
Rented out	40,065	252,927	158	9.7	10,252	89,676	*114	26.7	5,387	72,323	74	13.7
Cropland removed from production	49,003	582,620	84	5.2	6,213	137,853	45	13.9	7,754	105,863	73	15.6
Conservation Reserve Program	28,750	192,026	150	8.0	3,253	48,333	67	22.7	5,752	55,861	103	19.7
Set-aside and other	20,253	463,625	44	5.1	2,960	103,865	28	11.5	2,002	59,398	34	18.2
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	117,590,570	1,939,796	60,620	2.1	13,842,586	834,845	16,581	6.7	9,012,298	401,240	22,461	5.6
Livestock sales	53,391,967	1,294,263	41,253	3.5	7,452,294	597,353	12,476	10.5	4,157,594	243,271	17,090	8.1
Crop sales	48,817,675	995,753	49,026	3.0	4,494,917	332,868	13,504	6.7	3,632,250	194,165	18,707	7.9
Govt. payments	6,154,659	695,823	8,845	2.6	736,806	172,763	4,265	7.8	586,642	121,761	4,818	9.2
Other farm-related income	9,226,268	852,896	10,818	4.5	1,158,569	265,830	4,358	12.2	635,812	148,627	4,278	9.9
Cash expenses	94,702,326	2,066,744	45,822	1.9	18,621,533	955,648	19,486	5.4	7,039,564	402,286	17,499	6.0
Net cash farm income	22,888,244	2,070,222	11,056	5.5	-4,778,947	955,648	-5,001	nc	1,972,733	404,319	4,879	6.4
Net farm income	26,644,603	2,070,296	12,870	5.0	-1,032,408	955,648	-1,080	nc	3,076,128	404,393	7,607	6.6
Farm assets	772,102,351	2,069,501	373,086	2.3	249,608,556	954,126	261,610	5.0	102,460,802	405,119	252,915	5.3
Liabilities	85,020,008	1,977,154	43,001	2.8	22,234,008	916,589	24,257	5.8	7,896,124	367,564	21,482	11.0
Equity	687,082,343	2,071,144	331,741	2.5	227,374,548	955,648	237,927	5.2	94,564,678	405,240	233,355	5.4
Capital investments	17,945,270	1,286,680	13,947	5.6	4,961,150	588,199	8,434	7.2	1,591,138	180,640	8,808	9.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 20—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm operator household dependency category, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Positive household income/ 25-49 percent from farming				Positive household income/ 50-74 percent from farming			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	104,265	167,480	623	17.7	88,053	131,998	667	9.5
Owned	64,091	152,967	419	18.8	52,062	116,559	447	10.5
Rented in	43,756	86,644	505	16.1	41,057	84,137	488	14.4
Rented out	4,256	29,749	143	17.7	5,083	20,038	254	25.1
Cropland removed from production	8,274	74,658	111	14.4	4,925	65,393	75	13.2
Conservation Reserve Program	6,003	24,305	247	18.1	3,067	16,938	181	19.1
Set-aside and other	2,271	59,898	38	17.6	1,858	56,318	33	10.6
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	11,170,280	166,698	67,009	6.3	15,691,509	131,998	118,877	6.5
Livestock sales	4,082,867	100,289	40,711	8.3	7,006,699	87,551	80,030	9.0
Crop sales	5,208,903	102,988	50,578	9.8	6,766,849	90,026	75,165	9.5
Govt. payments	734,334	89,055	8,246	9.0	741,638	76,332	9,716	7.4
Other farm-related income	1,144,175	101,156	11,311	12.2	1,176,324	85,066	13,828	11.9
Cash expenses	7,879,090	166,742	47,253	7.4	10,345,404	131,295	78,795	6.3
Net cash farm income	3,291,189	167,480	19,651	6.4	5,346,105	131,998	40,501	8.1
Net farm income	3,405,826	167,480	20,336	7.1	5,041,778	131,998	38,196	8.9
Farm assets	69,657,492	167,480	415,915	7.4	73,888,617	131,998	559,771	7.8
Liabilities	7,712,616	160,698	47,994	9.7	8,272,907	127,822	64,722	8.5
Equity	61,944,876	167,480	369,864	7.9	65,615,710	131,998	497,097	8.4
Capital investments	1,370,613	103,673	13,220	10.6	1,460,866	95,797	15,250	7.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued—

Appendix table 20—Selected characteristics of farms, by farm operator household dependency category, 1992—Continued¹

Item	Positive household income/ 75 percent or more from farming				Negative household income			
	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²	Total	Farms reporting	Mean per reporting farm	RSE of total ²
	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent	1,000 acres	Number	Acres	Percent
Acres operated ³	299,252	277,896	1,077	7.2	98,271	132,868	740	8.0
Owned	170,848	242,464	705	7.9	52,135	119,796	435	10.7
Rented in	139,416	192,267	725	11.7	49,953	82,418	606	8.7
Rented out	11,234	29,611	379	18.5	3,853	11,530	*334	38.2
Cropland removed from production	16,393	143,218	114	9.7	5,444	55,634	98	12.6
Conservation Reserve Program	8,440	33,861	249	16.5	2,234	12,728	176	18.1
Set-aside and other	7,953	132,638	60	8.2	3,209	51,509	62	15.8
	1,000 dollars		Dollars		1,000 dollars		Dollars	
Gross cash income	56,810,148	277,896	204,429	3.9	11,063,750	127,118	87,035	5.4
Livestock sales	26,307,009	188,739	139,383	6.3	4,385,504	77,059	56,911	8.2
Crop sales	23,849,264	192,535	123,870	5.2	4,865,492	83,171	58,500	7.2
Govt. payments	2,553,321	170,276	14,995	4.7	801,919	65,635	12,218	7.0
Other farm-related income	4,100,553	184,871	22,181	7.5	1,010,835	67,346	15,010	12.9
Cash expenses	35,956,062	277,892	129,389	3.7	14,860,673	132,881	111,834	5.3
Net cash farm income	20,854,086	277,896	75,043	5.2	-3,796,923	132,881	-28,574	nc
Net farm income	19,804,474	277,896	71,266	5.6	-3,651,195	132,881	-27,477	nc
Farm assets	196,272,959	277,896	706,281	4.3	80,213,926	132,881	603,651	7.1
Liabilities	27,039,016	272,779	99,124	5.3	11,865,336	131,701	90,093	8.0
Equity	169,233,943	277,896	608,982	4.7	68,348,590	132,881	514,358	7.7
Capital investments	6,335,870	220,611	28,720	13.6	2,225,633	97,759	22,766	15.3

Source: Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Economic Research Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*The relative standard error of the estimate exceeds 25 percent. nc=Not computed.

¹The farm operator household population described in this table differs slightly from the farm operator population. See text for more information. Financial estimates in this table relate strictly to the farm business and do not include other participants in the sector. ²The relative standard error (RSE) provides the means of evaluating the survey results. A smaller RSE indicates greater reliability of the estimate. ³Includes acreage used and rented out which is not included in the acres operated categories.

Appendix A—Definitions of Terms

Farms, Land in Farms, and Gross Farm Sales

Farm: Any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

Total acres operated: Agricultural land owned, plus land rented in (excluding land rented on an animal-unit-month (AUM) basis), less land rented out, plus land both used and rented out.

Owned: Total acres owned by the farm operation.

Rented in: Acreage rented from others during the year, excluding AUM land, for cash or a share of crop or livestock production.

Rented out: Acreage provided to other farm operations for cash or a share of crop or livestock production.

Used and rented out: Acreage used for crops or livestock during a part of the year and rented to another operation for crop or livestock use during another part of the year. Because of the small amount of acreage used and rented out, this category does not appear separately on the tables, but the acreage is included in total acres operated.

Cropland removed from production: Land diverted from production in compliance with government agricultural programs including:

Set-aside: land idle from production under annual commodity acreage adjustment programs and devoted to conservation uses. Includes acres set aside during the year through programs such as Acres in Conservation Reserve (ACR), Conserving Uses (CU), or the 0-92 program.

The 10-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): highly erodible cropland taken out of production for 10 years and planted in protective cover crops or reforested for conservation purposes.

All other Federal and/or State programs.

Land in summer fallow has been deleted from this analysis.

Gross farm sales: Includes the gross market value of agricultural product sales and share of government agricultural payments received by the farm operation and landlord(s) during the year. The value of agricultural sales is based on sales of crops, livestock, poultry

and poultry products, and miscellaneous agricultural products, including products produced under contract.

Farming Regions

Northeast: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

Lake States: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Corn Belt: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio

Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

Appalachian: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

Southeast: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina

Delta States: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi

Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

Pacific: California, Oregon, Washington

Farm Characteristics

Farm organization: Respondents were asked to identify their farm operation as an individual operation, partnership, corporation (family or nonfamily), or cooperative. Because of limited numbers of farms, cooperatives were dropped from the tabulations pertaining to farm organization, and nonfamily corporations were combined with family corporations under the single heading of "corporation."

Tenure: Based on questions about owned and rented farmland. Defined as acres owned as a percentage of land operated. Tenure groupings include: full-owner operations own all of the land operated, part-owner operations own at least 1 acre and rent some of the land operated, and tenant operations rent over 99 percent of the land operated.

Type of farm: Farm operators were asked to identify the farm production specialty classification that represented the largest portion of gross farm sales from their farm operation. Possible responses included the following:

Cash grains: Largest portion of farm receipts from corn, soybeans, other grains (such as wheat, oats, barley, rye, and sorghum), and/or rice.

Tobacco: Largest portion of farm receipts from tobacco.

Cotton: Largest portion of farm receipts from cotton and cottonseed.

Other field crops: Largest portion of farm receipts from peanuts, Irish potatoes, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, sugarcane, broomcorn, popcorn, sugar beets, mint, hops, seed crops, hay, silage, and forage or any remaining farms that received the majority of farm income from the sales of other types of field crops.

Vegetables, fruits, or nuts: Largest portion of farm receipts from vegetables, fruits, tree nuts, and/or berries.

Nursery or greenhouse: Largest portion of farm receipts from nursery and/or greenhouse products.

Beef, hogs, or sheep: Largest portion of farm receipts from cattle (except dairy breeding stock), hogs, pigs, sheep, and/or lambs.

Poultry: Largest portion of farm receipts from broilers, other chickens, turkeys, and/or eggs.

Dairy: Largest portion of farm receipts from milk and dairy products.

Other livestock: Largest portion of farm receipts from mules, horses, foals and ponies, fur, bees and honey, fish, minnows, or any remaining livestock.

Acreage class: Based on acres operated. Five classes were constructed: 49 or fewer acres, 50-179 acres, 180-499 acres, 500-999 acres, and 1,000 or more acres.

Sales class: Based on gross farm sales. Six classes were constructed: \$9,999 or less, \$10,000-\$49,999, \$50,000-\$99,999, \$100,000-\$249,999, \$250,000-\$499,999, and \$500,000 or more.

Small farms: Farms with gross farm sales of less than \$50,000 during the year.

Commercial farms: Farms with gross farm sales of \$50,000 or more during the year.

Financial Characteristics

Financial and economic well-being measures are based on information provided by farm and ranch operations about their farm businesses. Estimates relate strictly to the farm business (operators, partners, and shareholders) and do not include all participants in the farm sector.

Gross cash farm income:

Livestock sales: Gross value of all livestock items sold from the farm or ranch, including marketing charges and livestock sold under contract.

Crop sales: Gross value of all crop items sold from the farm or ranch, including marketing charges and crops sold under contract. Also includes net Commodity Credit Corporation loans (value of crops placed under CCC loans during the year less the value of CCC loans repaid, not forfeited).

Government farm payments: Gross value of direct payments by the Federal Government (excluding wool and unshorn lamb wool payments) including the face value of commodity (payment in kind (PIK)) certificates, plus the premium received from PIK certificates excluding the landlord's share.

Other farm income: Income from custom work, machine hire, land rented to others, livestock grazing, contract production fees, outdoor recreation, and any other farm-related income.

Cash expenses: Includes variable expenses for livestock purchases, feed, veterinary services and supplies, other livestock-related expenses, seed and plants, fertilizer and chemicals, labor, fuels and oils, repairs and maintenance, machine-hire and custom work, utilities, and other variable expenses, as well as fixed expenses including real estate and property taxes, interest, insurance, and rent and lease payments.

Net cash farm income: Gross cash farm income (as defined above) less cash expenses. Represents income available to those who have a stake in the farm business (operators, partners, and shareholders) for living expenses, principal payment, income taxes, and other expenses or reinvestment in the farm.

Net farm income: Net cash farm income minus depreciation and other nonmoney expenses plus the value of inventory change and nonmoney income. Reflects the return or loss to operators and others and unpaid family labor, management, and equity capital associated with production during the year.

Farm Business Assets and Liabilities:

Farm assets: The estimated market value on December 31 of the reporting year, of all capital assets owned by the farm operation.

Farm operation liabilities: Total amount of debt owed by the farm or ranch on December 31 of the

reporting year. Includes outstanding principal plus unpaid interest owed to any banks, individuals, co-ops, merchants, or Federal agencies.

Equity: The difference between farm operation assets and farm operation liabilities.

Capital investments: Total operator capital expenditures for the reporting year.

Net farm income/solvency class: Farms were classified into one of four categories based on their combined income and solvency status, as defined in the text.

Operator Characteristics

Operator age: Farm operators were asked to provide their age. Five age categories were constructed: younger than 35 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years, and 65 years or older.

Operator education: Operators were asked to provide the highest grade they had completed in school. Four categories were constructed: less than high school, high school, some college, and college.

Operator occupation: Farm operators were asked to identify their major occupation as farm or ranch work, hired manager, or something else.

Farm Operator Households

Farm operator households: The households of senior operators of farms organized as individual operations, partnerships, and family corporations. Households associated with farms organized as nonfamily corporations or cooperatives, or where the operator, as a hired manager, did not receive any of the net income of the farm business, were excluded. For farms with more than one operator, information was obtained only for the households of the senior operator.

Farm operator household income: The farm income that accrues to the senior farm operator household plus all sources of off-farm income accruing to the household in the reporting year. Both farm income and off-farm income may be negative.

Farm operator household farm income: Includes the net income of the farm (cash income less cash expenses and depreciation) operated times the percent received by the household, plus cash received by the household from renting out farmland, plus net income received by the household from other farm businesses, plus wages and salaries paid to the operator and household members by the farm business. The net

income of the farm operated is calculated as the net cash income of the farm business, excluding income the business receives from renting out farmland and including farm labor expenses paid to household members as expenses, less depreciation.

Farm operator household off-farm income: Includes off-farm wages and salaries of all household members, plus the net income of any nonfarm businesses, interest and dividends, and all other cash off-farm income of household members.

Farm operator household dependency categories: A ratio is calculated to provide information on the components of farm operator household income and their importance. There are six categories of this ratio based on the value of farm operator household income and farm income:

- Positive household income and
 - loss from farming,
 - 0-24 percent from farming,
 - 25-49 percent from farming,
 - 50-74 percent from farming, and
 - 75 percent and over from farming.
- Negative household income.

Appendix B

The Farm Costs and Returns Survey

The 1992 Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS) provided the data for this report. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conduct this survey each year. The FCRS is the most comprehensive national annual data source available on farm financial and operating characteristics. A major advantage of the FCRS over other data sources is that details on expenses, income, assets, debt, and many other items can be disaggregated by production region, farm size, production specialty, and other characteristics. Such detail is important for a thorough understanding of the farm economy because it represents a collection of diverse agricultural enterprises.

Both NASS and ERS use FCRS data extensively for production expense summaries, financial analyses, other publications, and staff work. NASS annually releases FCRS statistics on farm production expenses, while ERS publishes a detailed summary of financial characteristics of U.S. farms (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, NASS, 1992; Morehart, Johnson, and Banker, 1992). ERS conducts research on the financial status of farms and presents the findings in USDA publications, professional journals, conference presentations, and other outlets. NASS and ERS also use the data to publish regional summaries of farm financial conditions (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, NASS and ERS, Farm Costs and Returns Survey, Summary).

Data Reliability and Survey Coverage

More than 11,000 farm and ranch operations in the 48 contiguous States were contacted and personally interviewed during February and March 1993. The sample originates from two sources. The first is a list of known operators of farms stratified by economic size and other attributes. That sample, the list frame, contains larger, more specialized operations. Maintaining a current list for smaller operations is difficult. Thus, an area frame is used to compensate for any incompleteness in the list frame. The area frame sample consists of land segments located within the 48 contiguous States stratified by land use. Rigorous procedures are followed to prevent the inclusion of any one farm in both sample frames.

The FCRS is a probability-based survey, where each respondent represents a number of farms of similar size and type. Thus, the sample data can be expanded using appropriate weights to represent all farms in the 48 contiguous States. The sample does not represent farms in Alaska or Hawaii. Estimates based on the

expanded sample differ from what would have occurred if a complete enumeration had been taken. These differences result from sampling and nonsampling variability (Ford, Nealon, and Tortora, 1986). A measure of sampling variability is available from survey results. The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error of the estimate represented as a percentage of the estimate. The RSE, also called the coefficient of variation (CV) when computed for means, is computed by dividing the standard error of the estimate by the estimate and multiplying the result by 100. We question the reliability of an estimate when the RSE exceeds 25 percent, and data users should use caution when interpreting items reported with RSE's of this magnitude or higher.

Because of space limitations, RSE's are not published for all survey items in the tables. However, when RSE's not given in the tables exceed 25 percent, indications of their magnitude are provided. RSE's from 25 to 50 percent not given in the tables are noted with an asterisk preceding the estimate. Estimates with RSE's over 50 percent are not published without their accompanying RSE and are denoted with an "r."

The standard error can also be used to calculate a confidence interval around an estimate. The confidence interval, based on a 95-percent probability, for average acres operated for all farms, for example, is estimated to be between 406 and 474 acres. The standard error of an estimate can also evaluate the statistical significance of differences between groups. For example, the appropriate t-statistic for a comparison between average acres operated by farms in the Northeast and the Lake States can be constructed by taking the difference between the mean of the two groups and dividing by the square root of the sum of the squared standard errors of the two groups. Or

$$t = (\text{Acres operated}_{\text{Northeast}} - \text{Acres operated}_{\text{Lake States}}) / \sqrt{(\text{Standard error}_{\text{Northeast}}^2 + \text{Standard error}_{\text{Lake States}}^2)^{0.5}}$$

$$= (165 - 263) / (9.08^2 + 12.1^2)^{0.5}$$

$$= -6.48$$

Although t-statistics are not reported in this report, the discussion in each section emphasizes the comparison between groups only when estimates were significantly different at the 95-percent level.

Survey data are also influenced by nonsampling errors. Data collection procedures are made uniform and consistent across the Nation by extensively training and supervising data collectors. Efforts are also undertaken to minimize other types of potential nonsampling errors by using extensive edit and data analysis.

Questionnaires are hand-edited in State offices and through computerized routines in Washington, DC. The extent of nonsampling errors is not known or directly measurable.

NASS personnel in Washington, DC, combined the data collected in States and constructed farm size, geographic location, and production specialty variables on the basis of reported information for each farm operation. NASS is also responsible for constructing survey expansion factors, or weights. ERS provides additional information by constructing additional classification variables and by defining aggregated expense, income, asset, and debt categories as well as major financial indicators, such as net farm income and debt/asset ratio for each farm.

Comparability With Other Sources of Agricultural Data

FCRS estimates, for various reasons, often differ from other agricultural data sources. Therefore, direct comparisons between FCRS estimates published in this report and other available data should be made only with careful consideration to sample design, data collection procedures, and underlying variable definitions.

Previous Farm Costs and Returns Surveys

The procedures that NASS uses to expand the FCRS sample to create national estimates were revised in 1992 to more accurately account for undercoverage and nonresponse. The data for calendar year 1991, used in the previous family farm report, were adjusted and resummarized using these new procedures (Dillard, 1993). Earlier estimates from the FCRS did not represent the entire farm population; the number of farms represented in the FCRS was usually between 1.7 and 1.8 million. The new procedures, however, adjust the expanded number of farms to match the official estimates of approximately 2.1 million farms (Dillard, 1993, and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, NASS, 1993). Estimates since 1991, therefore, are not comparable with earlier years' estimates.

1992 Census of Agriculture

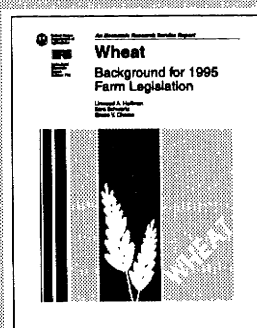
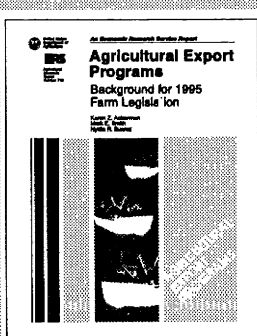
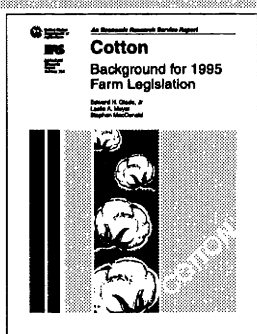
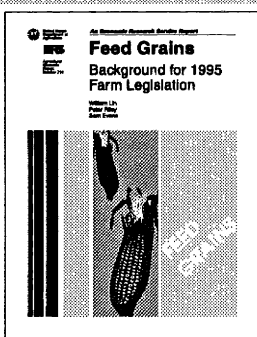
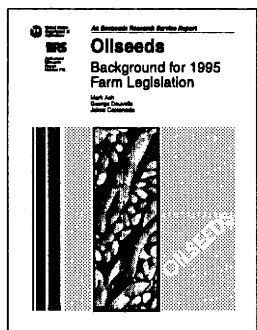
In 1992, the Census of Agriculture (taken every 5 years) and the Farm Costs and Returns Survey (taken annually) were conducted simultaneously (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1994). Each survey gathers economic and physical agricultural data from a common target population: all farms that sold or normally would have sold at least \$1,000 worth of agricultural products. Aside from this similarity of purpose, there are several differences that limit comparability of data obtained from these surveys.

The most obvious differences pertain to sample design and data collection procedures. The Census of Agriculture requires mandatory participation, while the FCRS relies on voluntary response. As a result, the Census involves a complete enumeration of farms (for most items). The FCRS uses a probability-based, multiframe sampling approach, which provides estimates that are representative of the U.S. population of farms based on a smaller subsample. Questionnaires are mailed to targeted farms and are completed by respondents for the Census. FCRS data are collected through personal interview by trained enumerators. The FCRS is conducted in the 48 contiguous States, while the Census includes Alaska and Hawaii. The Census of Agriculture also includes institutional farms, which are excluded in the FCRS.

In many instances, there are conceptual differences associated with specific pieces of information obtained from these surveys due to the wording of questions asked or the instructions associated with collecting the information. For example, the Census obtains a combined estimate of expenses paid by all participants in the farm business, including operators, landlords, contractors, and partners. This estimate is subtracted from the estimated total value of products sold to obtain an estimate of the net cash returns to all participants in the business. The FCRS obtains a separate estimate of the cash expenses paid by the farm operator, landlords, and contractors. This allows a separate estimate of the net cash income received by the farm operation to be computed. In other cases, the level of detail may differ between the types of questions asked, which prohibits direct comparisons.

USDA Agricultural Data

Estimates of income, expenses, assets, and debt of the U.S. farm sector reported in Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector (ECIFS) series are not directly comparable with estimates from this report (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1994; see also "New Estimation Procedures for Farm Income Accounts," Agricultural Income and Finance: Situation and Outlook Report, AFO-50, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, ERS, Sept. 1993). ECIFS estimates represent a combination of several data sources. In many instances, procedures used and assumptions made are dictated by the format of available data. Since the FCRS estimates represent farm operators, these estimates are typically below those of ECIFS, which represent the entire farm sector (farm operators, landlords, contractors, and others). ECIFS estimates also cover all 50 States versus the 48 States covered by the FCRS.



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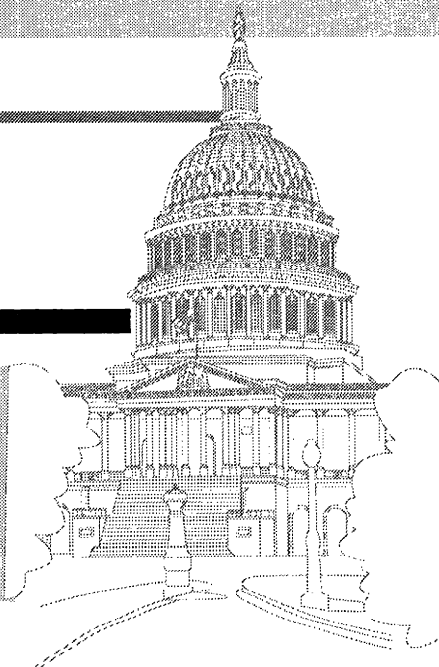
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